

Killings—1923.

Mississippi

~~Commercial~~  
**HELD FOR KILLING NEGRO.**

GREENWOOD, Miss., Aug. 27.—Pat Colvin, a white man, was held to await the action of the grand jury at the November term of circuit court, the November term of circuit court, following his committal trial before Judge A. W. Evans Saturday on a charge of murder, growing out of the charge of murder, growing out of the killing of Walter Dixon, a negro, recently.

Colvin is alleged to have shot the negro without provocation. The state's witnesses against him were J. E. Yarbrough and Mrs. J. E. Yarbrough. Memphis Tenn.  
Yarbrough is a white man who is held in jail on a charge of operating a still and whose family moved into the jail with him after his arrest. Yarbrough claims that he is innocent of the charge and says that he is the victim of a plot to "railroad" him because of his stand for enforcement of the law.

Killings—1923.

Illinois.

**WHITE OFFICER  
KILLS UNARMED  
CHICAGO NEGRO**

**CHICAGO WHITE OFFICER  
WHO KILLED COLORED MAN  
IS HELD FOR GRAND JURY**

Colored Man Was Quarreling With His Wife Whom Vice Investigator Thought Was White. Narrowly Escaped Lynching.

(By the Associated Negro Press.) Chicago, Ill., June 20.—Interference by Charles P. Domm, a white investigator for a local reform organization, in a street quarrel between Fred Everett Perdue and Mrs. Grace Banks, a fair-skinned colored woman because he thought the woman was white, led to the fatal shooting of Perdue and nearly caused the death of the white man at the hands of a group of angry colored people who witnessed the murder, Saturday night.

Domm is employed as a "spotter" by the "Committee of Fifteen," a reform organization whose chief purpose is said to be opposition to race. It has recently centered its attacks chiefly upon the "black and tan" cabarets of the colored districts because they were frequented by whites. While walking along State street seeking evidence, Domm passed Perdue and Mrs. Banks who were having words. Thinking her a white woman, Domm later said, he projected himself into the argument. A bystander whispered to him that the couple were man and wife just as Perdue ordered him to mind his own business. Domm departed but later met Mrs. Banks and Perdue again at 32nd and Wabash avenue about two blocks away. Words were passed; Perdue knocked Domm down, whereupon he drew his pistol and shot the colored man through the heart.

The crowd at the amusement park across the street heard the shot and saw the man fall. Urged on by Mrs. Banks at whose house Perdue was a roomer they closed in threateningly on the white detective. All they knew was that the woman accused him of murdering an unarmed man. The scene was a grim reminder of similar events below the Mason and Dixon line with the principals reversed. The white man cowered against the wall, his lips cut and his face bleeding when three colored men, police Sergeant Middleton, Archie Fields of the State's Attorney's office and Roy Chestnut, a mail clerk, dashed up. Fields and Middleton drew their guns and quieted the crowd which clamored to punish

the murderer. Domm was finally lodged in jail, safe but terror stricken. Middleton and Fields while they saved the white man declare they hope never to face so determined a group again.

**CHICAGO WHITE OFFICER  
WHO KILLED COLORED MAN  
IS HELD FOR GRAND JURY**

Associated Negro Press.

CHICAGO, Ill., June 27.—Charles Domm, the white investigator who shot and killed Fred Everett Perdue, after interfering in an argument between Perdue and Mrs. Grace Banks, and who was threatened by a crowd of Negroes as a result of the killing, was held by the grand jury on a charge of manslaughter at the coroner's inquest. Strenuous efforts were made by the white dailies and Supt. Thresher of the committee of 15 by whom Domm was employed to secure his release.

**POLICE AND NEGROES  
COMMERCIAL  
BATTLE IN DANCE HALL**

**Three Killed, Two Injured in  
East Chicago Affray.**

(By the Associated Press.) CHICAGO, Sept. 22.—One policeman was killed, another probably fatally wounded, two negroes were shot to death and another hurt as the result of a fight that started between negroes in an East Chicago dance hall early today.

Clarence Green, a negro, said to be wanted in Florida for murder, shot and killed William Austin, negro, after a quarrel, killed Robert Kuchen, a policeman, wounded Tommy Mitchell, another policeman, and wounded another negro who disappeared. Green was fatally wounded.

Killing 1923 I.

# TWO SLAYERS' FACES 'PASTY WHITE,' GIRL VICTIM SAYS

Birmingham Murderers Scorned Money and Jewelry in Ransacking Victims' Homes

## DRUGS SOUGHT, IS ANSWER

Similarity in Crimes Leads to Belief They Are Directed by Head of a Narcotic Ring

By DAVID R. SOLOMON.  
Nationally Known Magazine Writer

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb.

### 3.—More precious than gold!

So desired that the ax-murderers of Birmingham kill with the blade for it; rip mattresses and pillows in their frantic search; overturn trunks and drawers; smash open secret hiding places; to toss headlessly aside as worthless the hidden money and jewelry.

With their ax they struck down Mrs. Clem S. Crawford. When he dropped, unconscious, they slit her throat from ear to ear with their blades. They sank their blade into the skull of Joseph Mantione, dragged his unconscious body from his store

into his adjoining bedroom, chopped to pieces the head of his wife, then flooded the place with gasoline and set fire to the bedding.

A baby was asleep in its crib within hand's reach of the bed.

What did they want, for which they were willing to go to such lengths? Did they get it?

Birmingham is wrought up, mystified, horror-struck. The little storekeepers — who alone have been made the victims—have banded into an alliance for protection.

Detectives have been hired. Rewards are held out. The American Legion formally offered to the Commissioner of Public Safety of Birmingham an armed guard of ex-service men to patrol the threatened districts. Repeatedly through editorials and news articles the keepers of the small stores have been warned to close their shops early; to remain armed; to regard with fearful suspicion any early or late customer.

**Sixteen times since Christmas Eve, 1919, Birmingham has been horrified with the story of a murderous ax assault upon the proprietor of one of the smaller stores. Of the 26 victims, eleven have died.**

The sinister thread of a ghastly similarity weaves through the cases. In each the victim has been the keeper of a little store, away from the business section of the city. In each, the weapon was an ax: an ax with its handle chopped off to make an implement of death: silent—inhuman—certain.

The time chosen has invariably been when customers were least likely to be present; at opening time, early in the morning; or just before closing, at night. Not an adult witness has been purposely spared. Some have recovered. But not because of the ax-murderer's design.

Most of the crimes remain a mystery. There have been arrests; in some cases there have been convictions; but in a majority of the cases suspects, if arrested, have been released without trial. All of the accused deny knowledge. The number of crimes continues to mount. Already in 1923 there have been three deaths.

Those who have recovered either can not tell, or will not, for reasons of their own. Countless theories are rife in Birmingham: a homicidal maniac; a Black Hand plot of vendetta; robbery. None satisfy the critical mind.

But suspicion is beginning to crystallize. Little clews, hitherto disregarded, straws floating in the wind, are gathering together into a definite, unmistakable lead toward—

### Dope fiends!

Nothing else explains all of the inconsistent details. No theory satisfies all objections. The homicidal maniac theory breaks down because the murderers have been seen: sometimes there are two of them; sometimes one; sometimes, perhaps, more. Some have been white; some negroes. All relatives and junk. After his death, could not have had the same suspenders were found in the deadly mania.

The Black Hand or vendetta theory might hold water if all of the neighborhood were wont to the victims had been Italians. But call him miser. only part have been. A mere refutation of the names refutes this theory: Ary, Pinkins, Whittle, inhabitants said it was the thickest Birmingham had ever seen. Clem S. Crawford had long been a citizen of Birmingham: was American born, was a Mason and a Shriner.

Robbery falls down as a hypothesis because most of the time nothing has been taken. Sometimes the cash registers have been broken open, and the money left, undisturbed. At first, the explanation was that the criminals had been frightened. That no longer satisfies.

The initial lead came after the assault on January 10, 1923, upon

## Alabama

Joseph Klein and his daughter, Ethel, 14 years old. Klein died in the hospital, as she struggled to consciousness, the girl was questioned. "Who did it?"

"There were men," she said faintly. "Two."

"Negroes? White?"

"White . . ." She hesitated, groping for something to describe. "White — like — like tooth paste."

That furnished a clue. The face of the confirmed drug addict blazons his story to the world. Once seen, it can never again be mistaken. It is white—a pasty, deathly, unearthly white: White like the belly of a fish.

### Dragnet Flung Out.

The police flung out their dragnet for "dope fiends."

**"If you wanted dope, and couldn't get it, what would you do?" they asked one.**

**"I'd kill my own mother if I couldn't get it any other way."**

That is the mark of the species. Almost nothing else can explain the inhuman brutality of the murders. And the axe used is exactly the sort of weapon a drug addict would select.

Officials in a position to know, explain why storekeepers have been selected. It is not easy, they state, to obtain the drug in small quantities. The user, almost always in a low financial condition, can afford to buy only a little at a time. More than once it has been whispered that there is a gigantic drug ring, that attempts to use the smaller stores for distribution.

The cunning employed in picking time and place is typical of the dope fiend. All the other details fit in: the ripping open of pillows and mattresses, the spurning of valuables, the refusal of some of the victims to talk, the pasty white faces, "like tooth paste."

The first of the axe murders was as melodramatic as any fiction.

John H. Belser, a Syrian, kept a small mercantile store. The shop

store that had been bought shortly after the Civil War. People of

the neighborhood were wont to

There was a fog, the morning

of Christmas Eve, 1919. The older

theory: Ary, Pinkins, Whittle, inhabitants said it was the thickest

Parker, Seay, Klein, Levine, Crawford. Clem S. Crawford had long

been a citizen of Birmingham: was American born, was a Mason and a Shriner.

At 7 o'clock, a customer entered Belser's store and found him dead in a pool of blood. He had been bound and gagged, then hacked to death. His store was ransacked from one end to the other. The shelves were disarranged. The contents of the counters were scattered all over the floor.

The mystery of his death was never solved.

## Other Cases Follow

Followed, intermittently, the case of G. T. Ary, manager of a chain store, who was struck down with an axe, and who died without regaining consciousness; that of C. C. Pipkins, who recovered; and of J. J. Whittle.

The method used in each case was the same. A customer, or two customers, entered the store. Something was asked for which required the storekeeper to bend over. In the Whittle case, it was onions. As the proprietor bent, the murderer struck.

None of the three cases was solved. In the Ary case, an arrest was made, but the suspect later was released. No other arrests were made.

On July 13, 1921, occurred one of the worst crimes of the whole series. Charles Baldone had kept a little store in Birmingham for 14 years. A cobbler, calling to make a purchase, long after the usual opening time of the store, peered through a window in the bedroom adjoining the shop. Baldone's body lay stretched across one bed, while that of his wife was in another. Their 14-year-old daughter lay, her skull fractured, across a bench on a sleeping porch in the rear. The butt end of the ax, the blunt side, had been used on them.

A bloody ax was found, with half of the handle cut away. The cash register had been broken open, but more than \$40 dollars was left undisturbed. Joe Baldone, brother of the assaulted man, stated positively that his brother had no enemies, was mixed up in no vendetta.

The 3-year-old child was unharmed. He was questioned. His story was that his father was hit while seated on the refrigerator. Blood was found there; but the father's body was found across the bed in the back room.

## Mystery Unsolved

All of the victims recovered, but the mystery is still unsolved.

In quick succession followed three minor crimes of the series. H. I. Bersky was struck down from behind. He recovered, but no arrests were made. Mrs. Sam Zideman was stunned with an ax or some blunt instrument. The cash register was not robbed. Mose Parker, negro, was found dead at his home at Titusville, a negro settlement on the outskirts of Birmingham. He had been lured, bareheaded and barefoot, into his backyard. His head was split wide open with an ax.

Another crime followed. On December 21, 1921, Mrs. Susie Mantione was killed outright and her husband, Joseph Mantione, was fatally chopped with an ax at their store. Mrs. Mantione was evidently asleep when the fiends struck her with the blade of the ax. Mantione's hat was found in the onion bin. The signs showed that,

he had been lured to that part of the store, struck down, and his unconscious body dragged into the bedroom at the rear.

A negro, passing, saw flames mounting in the bedroom, and turned in the alarm. When the fire was extinguished, the entire place was found to have been ransacked from top to bottom. All of the clothing was on the floor. Drawers and their contents were scattered. The feather bed had been ripped open, and feathers flung widely about.

### Baby in Fire

**Unmistakable evidence showed that the assassins deliberately poured gasoline about the room and upon the bedclothing, then, calmly disregarded of the baby in the crib beside the bed, applied the torch.**

Mantione died without regaining consciousness.

No let-up followed. Within less than a month, Clem S. Crawford, native American, Mason and Shriner, was fatally injured and his wife killed outright.

Mrs. Crawford was tending store, while her husband was asleep. A dropped flour sack showed that her assailant induced her to lean over, then struck her from behind with an ax. When she fell, he almost severed her head from her body with his knife.

Crawford heard the commotion and raced out in defense of his wife. His head was terribly mutilated in the struggle that followed. He died almost instantly.

Their baby was unharmed. But the assailant proceeded to search with thoroughness the store and the bedroom. Clothes were scattered from one side of the room to the other. A trunk was broken open, and its contents littered all about.

**A pouch of jewelry that had been in the trunk was tossed carelessly back of it, as valueless.**

The mystery is still unsolved.

### Merchant Fights

Tony Lorino, Italian merchant, put up so vigorous a fight when he and his wife were assaulted on January 25, 1922, that the lone negro, who made the attempt, was beaten off. The negro came in and asked for a 15-cent sack of meal. When Lorino put it up, the customer claimed he had asked for a 30-cent sack. As Lorino bent over, the negro hit him with a short ax or hammer, but failed to do much damage.

At sound of the struggle Mrs. Lorino rushed in, and was struck. Lorino, in meantime, reached a revolver, then a shotgun, and opened fire. The negro fled.

To date, no arrests have been made.

When the police arrived, Lorino was walking around in the store, dazed, an ax in his hand.

Joe Lucia and his wife, too, fared better than they were at 1922. A negro came in and asked for a "Coney Island" or "hot dog," and struck when Lucia was serving him. Mrs. Lucia rushed in at the noise and was felled also.

Nor was the cash register robbed in this case. Both recovered.

J. H. Seay, a merchant out on the Tennessee Pike, usually kept his store open rather late. On September 30, 1922, a customer entering about 7 o'clock, found Seay unconscious, a long, deep gash extending from his forehead to his right ear.

Seay recovered, but no one has been convicted of the assault.

### House Hunting Excuse

Abraham Levine, 40, had a small negro house in the rear of his store. On the night of November 6, 1922, a negro came into the store and asked if Levine wanted to rent the place, and upon receiving an affirmative reply, asked to see it. Levine left with him.

In a few moments the negro returned, and stated that the key that Levine had taken would not fit. Mrs. Levine followed with another key. Shortly thereafter, the negro came back and purchased from Levine's 16-year-old daughter a half dozen eggs.

Her parents failing to return, the girl began to make a search. Both had been chopped in the head. The bag of eggs was found, blood-stained, back of the store.

Levine died, but Mrs. Levine recovered. Two negroes were arrested, indicted, and are awaiting trial.

On January 10, 1923, another assault was added. Joseph Klein kept a small feed store at 1496 Eighth Avenue, North. Shortly before closing time, two men drove up in an automobile and asked the price of a bale of hay. Klein told them, and they drove off.

### Girl Tells Story

As Klein was preparing to close the store, they returned, according to the story told by Ethel Klein, 14 years old. She was behind a high desk, and heard a scuffle in the back of the store. As she raised her head to look over the desk, the lights were switched off. Then there was a knock. That was all she remembered.

The pockets of Klein were rifled.

In the hospital, questioned, the girl stated that there were two men, white, young. Their faces were "like tooth paste."

To date, no arrests have been made.

The last of the crimes was the Vitallero case. A negro employee of a coal company went to the Vitallero store on the morning of January 24, 1923, to make a purchase. He was followed by a negro, who made a dash. He rushed out, half-scared by his shoutings, raced to the store.

Vitallero's body, hideously hacked, lay about 20 feet from the front door, close by a bin of potatoes. Inside was a bag, about half full of potatoes, showing that the usual ruse had been employed upon him. A trail of blood showed where Mrs. Vitallero, after having been struck down, dazed, half dead, had crawled through the night to the telephone in the back of the store. She collapsed almost under the instrument.

### Rooms Ransacked

Vitallero's pockets were turned wrong side out. The dresser drawers in the living rooms were overturned and rifled. A trunk had been ransacked from top to bottom.

**But a diamond ring upon Mrs. Vitallero's finger was left behind. Negotiable War Savings Stamps, totaling \$945.00, were tossed aside as if they had been so much trash.**

The ax, cut off half-way up the handle, was left behind. It had been wrapped in newspaper. The fatal blows were struck without unwrapping it. Plainly it had been disguised as an ordinary bundle. When Vitallero bent over, the fiend struck, the blade cutting through the paper into Vitallero's skull.

The back of Mrs. Vitallero's left hand was slashed, showing where she had put up a struggle before she was struck down. A dagger-like knife, with a three-inch blade—the sort of knife the negroes call a "switch-back"—was left behind.

Mrs. Vitallero died January 25 at the hospital. She regained consciousness long enough only to make answer to one question.

"Where they white?"  
She could not speak. But she nodded.

Vitallero died January 29. He never regained consciousness. In his delirium he raved constantly in Italian. An interpreter, placed by the side of his bed, is confident that Vitallero knew who struck him down. But his secret died with him.

Police officials asserted that Vitallero served a sentence in the Atlanta Federal penitentiary for buying, receiving, or concealing stolen property.

\* \* \*

That is the death toll—so far. Birmingham daily expects another.

### Officials Baffled

Meanwhile, the officials are baffled. Are the crimes related, or independent? Is there connection between them?

7. The refusal of some of the victims, who apparently know, to talk.

8. The spurning of money, negotiable government securities,

That there is seems to be indicated by the curious regularity of the locations as the crimes occur. Over half have been committed within a rough oval, two miles long, a half mile wide, whose center lies just west of the principal business section.

9. The faces of the murderers, white like the belly of a fish; white like tooth paste."

Will the series be stopped?

When will another storekeeper die?  
Birmingham, apprehensive, waits.

### MACK WOOTEN TRACED TO CHATTANOOGA

Mack Wooten, escaped convict from Montgomery, Ala., who shot and killed Dan Hall Williams, well-known lumber merchant, in the rear of his home, 75 West Fifth street, last Saturday night, was either in the vicinity of Chattanooga, Tenn., Wednesday, or en route north from that city, according to information gathered locally from government agents who have been aiding in the search.

C. H. Robinson, colored investigator formerly attached to the offices of the local postoffice inspector, trailed the fugitive to Rome, Ga., where Monday night he stopped at the rooming house conducted by a negro woman by the name of Duncan. Robinson enlisted the aid of Deputy United States Marshal W. F. Haynie, of Rome, as he searched the town for Wooten.

Wooten escaped from the Alabama prison Christmas day. He shot and seriously wounded an officer at Tallassee, Ga., who attempted to arrest him December 28, coming to Atlanta immediately afterward.

### Dope Theory Upheld

The circumstances that point significantly toward the theory that dope fiends are responsible are:

1. The inhuman brutality, which is a characteristic of the drug crazed;

2. The occupation of each of the victims. It has long been suspected that the drug ring attempts to distribute narcotics through the smaller stores;

3. The cunning exhibited in planning and executing each of the crimes;

4. The ripping apart of mattresses and pillows, the breaking of trunks and cash registers, the minute search of the bodies of the victims;

5. The fact that the hunted thing must be small enough to have been hidden in a dresser drawer or cash register;

6. The differences of nationality, class, and degree of the victims;

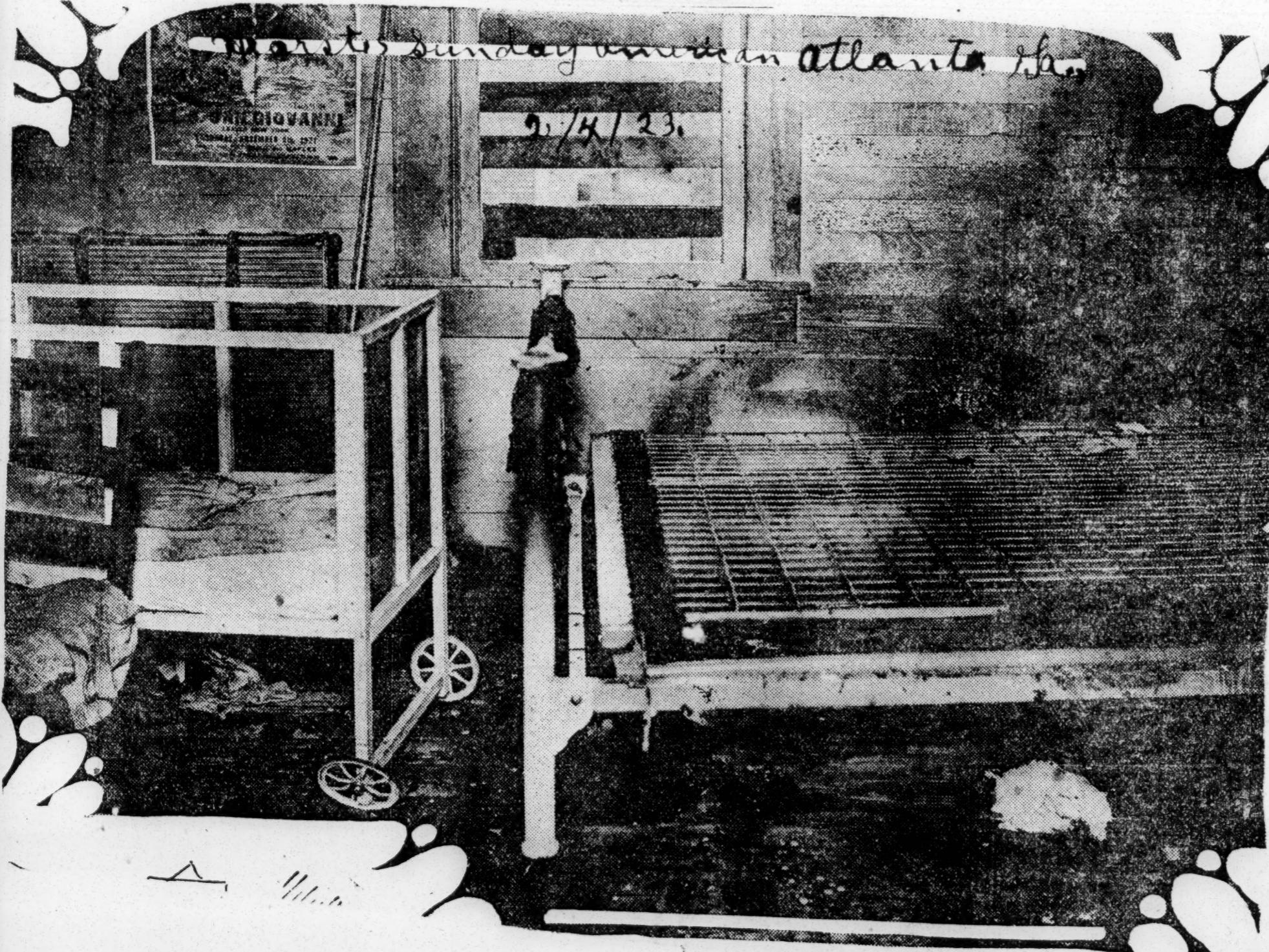
7. The refusal of some of the victims, who apparently know, to talk.

8. The spurning of money, negotiable government securities,

Killings - 1923 II.

Alabama.

# Girl's Story Leads to Belief Ax Murders Were Committed in Search of Dope



Interior of room where Mantones were struck down, showing the crib, bed and burned walls of the gasoline-soaked apartment.



Harvest Sunday  
American  
Atlanta Ga., 294

Emma Levine, 16-year-old girl,  
whose father was slain and mother  
wounded by ax murderer.



Ax used in slaying Mr. and Mrs.  
Vitallero. The ax was found wrapped  
in a paper, the murderer having  
struck down his victims without re-  
moving the wrapper.

Killings 1923.

Alabama.

# CHOCTAW CASES BEFORE GRAND JURY

Investigation Into Moonshining  
and Death of Drew Connor

Begins at Butler

*Montgomery Advertiser*

BUTLER, ALA., October 29.—The Choctaw county grand jury today began inquiry into the mystery surrounding the death of Drew Connor, whose skeleton was found wired to a tree three years ago. Authorities who made a preliminary investigation declared that the man's body had been partly cremated.

Several weeks elapsed after the disappearance from home of Connor before the body was discovered. More than twenty arrests were made after special investigators, federal and state, had spent weeks on the case. B. B. Chamberlain, Mobile county solicitor, who was named by the attorney general to inquire into the case, is here to assist the grand jury as special prosecutor.

Among the number arrested as suspects in connection with the case are neighbors of Connor. What evidence may be in the hands of the investigators has not been made public. The death of Connor is believed to have been the result of a "moonshiners" feud.

Connor, said by authorities to have been regarded by his neighbors as an inoffensive young man, left home one night in 1920, never to return. After days of waiting his family began a search which continued for eight weeks when charred portions of his body, bound with wire to a tree, were discovered.

This county seat, eight miles from a telegraph office, is expected to be the center of one of the greatest crowds in its history during the inquiry, on account of the widespread interest in the case.

70-30-2

Killings - 1923

Alabama.

# KILLED IN GENERAL FIGHT AT MOBILE

The Montgomery  
Twenty-five Negro Seamen and

Women Held in Police

Round-Up

Advertiser

MOBILE, ALA., August 20.—Special Leased Wire to The Advertiser—Grover Locke, railroad mechanic, is dead today as the result of what appeared to have been a blow over the heart, according to County Coroner S. F. Hale. Locke was killed in a fight in a negro rooming house on Water street near Church, late last night.

In the police round up of the section following the killing twenty-five seamen and women are held, mostly negroes. They are Lillian Reed, mulatto, keeper of the house; Alice Fairly; Francisco Rodriguez, held without bond; Arnold Leon, H. S. Malcomb, Green Sherrard, Isaiah Hawthon, Richard Shaw, Stanley Boone, Joe Lee, Lilly Belle Parker, T. Francis, Vincent Wallace; Julie Vackus, Joseph Wallace, Ali Elmi, Raymond Rodriguez, V. Gonzales, Amos Stevenson, Charles Kelly, Harold Samuel, Willie White, Elsie Mae Jones, Mary Smith and Mary Boone.

The story of the killing as given to The Advertiser Correspondent is that Locke, while drunk attempted entrance into the house and ordered the other inmates to leave. Locke had a black jack slung to one wrist and a knife in the other hand. When denied entrance he stripped the shutters from a front window and got into the hall, said the woman, where other men attacked him. He fell to the floor, dead before the assault could be stopped she says.

According to police Locke and the woman had been running the house road his body was found. The pockets for some time. The body is at a local of his clothing were turned inside out. undertakers awaiting instructions from his family. According to the police the him in the left eye. A gold watch and \$50 in money were taken from the dead man had a sister in Hattiesburg, Miss., and an effort is being made to communicate with her.

HICKS ADMITTED TO TUSCALOOSA CRIME  
BAIL THROUGH WAIT

The Montgomery  
Insurance Man Who Threw Negro Boy in River Claims

Drowning Was Accident

Advertiser 8-13-23

DEMOPOLIS, ALA., Aug. 14—Special to The Advertiser—T. F. Hicks, an insurance man, who was given a preliminary trial on a charge of drowning Robert Henley, thirteen-year-old negro and was held without bond for action of the grand jury, has secured bail on his bond of \$500.

out on bond of \$500. The habeas corpus was issued by Judge A. L. Hasty, on testimony that the drowning was more accidental than intentional.

It is claimed that Hicks playfully picked up the boy and pitched him from the ferry boat into the Warrior river. Hicks claims that he was only pretending that he was going to throw him in and that the boy slipped from his hands and fell into the river. The state case against Hicks charges criminal negligence.

## HOLD NEGRO FOR DEATH OF FARMER

Charged with Murder of Columbian Farmer, Denies

Allegation

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 17.—George Robinson, negro, charged with having waylaid and killed Will Murphy, 55 years old, prominent Columbiana, Ala., farmer, two miles west of Columbiana Saturday night, was arrested and brought to Birmingham today by Sheriff J. J. Faulkner and Deputies C. J. Faulkner and G. M. Gardner, of Shelby county, because of high feeling in Columbiana.

Robinson denied the killing but was identified by one of Murphy's sons, with him when the tragedy occurred.

The negro, placed in the Shelby county jail following his arrest, was smuggled out of Columbiana and transferred to the Jefferson county jail when feeling began to run high. He is said to have a police record.

Murphy had been to Columbiana Saturday to sell some produce and purchase some supplies. When he did not return to his home three miles from town at the usual hour his family became alarmed and started out to hunt for him. In a secluded spot on the

than a week has elapsed since John Swain, a resident of this city, was brutally shot down by a white man One bullet had proved fatal, striking the left eye. A gold watch and \$50 in money were taken from the body, it is said. Murphy is survived by his widow and four children.

Only Fact Decided by Officers That Charred Body That of White Woman

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., Nov. 1.—Reasonably certain that the body found charred in the ruins of a little negro church four miles from Tuscaloosa yesterday morning was that of a young white woman, officers here exhausted every clew in tracing women visitors

to Tuscaloosa about whom there might have been any mystery. There remains the theory that the woman was a visitor to Tuscaloosa newly arrived, and that she was taken to the spot four miles from this city on a road which ends thirty miles back in the country, and murdered either in or near the church, following which the church was burned to hide the crime.

Coroner S. T. Hardin and representatives of the sheriff's office have been working steadily in an attempt to unravel the crime. There are scores of rumors in Tuscaloosa, and it took the officers most of the day to weed out the most promising of the rumors and to find that they led nowhere. Further examination of the body by Dr. Hardin and other medical authorities here adds strength to the belief that the woman was white. The burned open suit case offers the only apparent reason for the murder, that of robbery. Yet that theory is not a strong one.

School was held in the church building Tuesday, but there had been no meeting there Tuesday night.

Highfield has a notorious reputation for consorting with Race women and that there is every reason to believe that he knew one of the women with Swain and that he was jealous.

Sheriff Cobb of Colbert county in an effort to whitewash the whole affair and at the same time make the citizens believe that he is trying to find the guilty party, threw the women into jail and charged them with vagrancy. Both of them saw the murderer at close range and both of them know him, but neither has been permitted to testify or identify the man. This is just another case of Alabama justice.

## Montgomery Advertiser JOHN SWAIN WAS MURDERED ON WAY HOME FROM SHOW

White Policeman Thought to Be One Who Committed the Deed, Is Still Free

Tuscumbia, Ala., Dec. 21.—More than a week has elapsed since John Swain, a resident of this city, was brutally shot down by a white man with Miss Clara Mayes and Miss Edith Smith, and although the identity of the murderer is known, the only action taken by the sheriff thus far has been to arrest the two girls who were with the man at the time of the crime.

Swain lived four days after the shooting and gave a minute description of his assailant and even went far enough to name the man he believed to be the murderer, but pains were taken by those in authority not to bring him before the stricken man for identification. According to the story told by Swain and the two women, they were walking along the street in what is known as "Baptist Bottom" when a Ford car pulled up alongside them and a man jumped out. This man, believed to be Calvin Highfield, a speed officer, walked up close to Swain and peered into his face. Satisfying himself that Swain was the right party, the white



# DAY OF EXCITEMENT FOLLOWED BY QUIET

5/2/23  
Funeral Services Today

For Allen Abernethy

Montgomery Advertiser

HELNA, ALA., May 1.—Helena is

quiet today following the most exciting day yesterday ever experienced in the history of the town, in which Governor Brandon in issuing the order for commutation, Wednesday, set two white men free and the out his reasons for so doing, as follows:

Influrated posse of citizens which augmented the state and county officers in this case and have reached the definite conclusion that there is grave doubt as to whether or not Winston Jackson fired the shot that caused the death of Mr. Donaldson. This doubt grows out of the fact that the solicitor, J. F. Thompson, expresses a

Reports from South Highlands hospital in Birmingham say the two Roys will recover from their wounds they received in the gun battle.

The body of Allen Abernethy, nephew of Judge H. B. Abernethy, of Birmingham, will be laid to rest Wednesday afternoon following funeral services from his home at Graymont, a suburb of Birmingham. Mr. Abernethy is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Abernethy; a brother, Dwyer, and one sister, Mrs. Roland.

The body of Charles Phillips, of Roebuck, who was killed in the gun battle which ended with the death of the negro after the cabin in which he was barricaded had been dynamited and fired, was sent to Ashby Tuesday for funeral and interment.

# JACKSON SENTENCE COMMUTED TO LIFE

Executive Clemency is Extended to Wilcox Negro Convicted of Murder

Winston Jackson, Wilcox county negro, under sentence of death for murder, will not be hanged in the county jail at Camden, Ala., June 15, the date set for his execution. He will spend the remainder of his natural life in the penitentiary. A formal order commuting Jackson's sentence to

life imprisonment, was issued Wednesday afternoon by Governor William W. Brandon. 6-14-23

Jackson was convicted of the slaying of John Donaldson, a white man. Another negro, Ed Williams, also was convicted in connection with the same crime, received a life sentence. A natural life.

third defendant in the same case, a "Let order issue accordingly".

Birmingham Officers

Look For Axe Wielder

When Jackson filed application with the state board of pardons for commutation of his sentence, that application had the support of the prosecuting solicitor and many others of the best citizens of Wilcox county. They expressed the opinion that there is a reasonable doubt as to which of the two negro men tried for the assaults which, during the past 42 months, has taken the lives of 19 persons of the deceased also expressed grave doubt as to the guilt of Jackson.

The state board of pardons on last Thursday, declined to recommend com-

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., May 29.—Birmingham police today were seeking to solve the murder of Charley Graffeo, the latest victim of a series of axe crimes, fired the fatal shots. Relatives of the deceased also expressed grave doubt as to the guilt of Jackson.

Graffeo was found dead at his store in an outlying residential sec-

mation, Attorney General Harwellton last night with his skull crushed by the blow of an axe and his throat was slit from ear to ear. A blood Secretary of State S. H. Blan, and spattered axe stood behind the door. State Auditor W. B. Allgood. Some hours prior to the announcement of the board's decision however, Governor Brandon granted a reprieve of one week to Jackson, pending the pardon board's action. The original date set for Jackson's execution was Friday, June 8.

## Governor's Order.

Governor Brandon in issuing the order for commutation, Wednesday, set two white men free and the out his reasons for so doing, as follows:

"I have carefully considered the file of the case and have reached the definite conclusion that there is grave

doubt as to whether or not Winston Jackson fired the shot that caused the death of Mr. Donaldson. This doubt

grows out of the fact that the solicitor, J. F. Thompson, expresses a

doubt as to his guilt and feels that this applicant should not suffer the death penalty but that the other ne-

gro, Ed Williams, who was also indicted for this same crime, under the evidence, is probably the guilty party.

"The county solicitor, John Miller, also asks for clemency, in this case, expressing the belief that Ed Will-

iams had a greater motive for committing the crime. One of the most interested of the prosecutors in the case believes that Ed Williams com-

mitted the crime and that the sentence should be commuted to life im-

prisonment. Relatives of the deceased express grave doubt as to the guilt of this defendant and ask the commu-

nity who tried the case request clemency and the sheriff of the county writes that he thoroughly investigated the facts and that he is convinced that the applicant did not do the kill-

## White People Plead.

"Many of the best white citizens of Camden are of the opinion that Winston Jackson did not commit this crime but that those who received life imprisonment were more guilty than he.

I therefore concur in the opinion of the attorney general, chairman of the board of pardons, who recommends clemency, and the reasons set forth in his recommendation justify me in commuting this sentence to life im-

prisonment.

"In view of these facts and of the doubt thus created, and inasmuch as others indicted for this crime who seem to be more guilty, I cannot give my consent to the death penalty in this case. I therefore commute the sentence of death to life imprisonment.

This case, I therefore commute the sentence of death to life imprisonment. Another negro, Ed Williams, also and order that Winston Jackson be confined in the penitentiary for his crime, received a life sentence. A natural life.

A natural life.

Deputy Coroner Crowe exonerated officers for shooting Morris. Smith was attempting to arrest Morris.

the time of the firing, according to the sheriff.

Information relative to the shooting was brought to the county jail after 12 o'clock Friday night and members of the sheriff's force went to the scene of the shooting at once. The arrests were made after daybreak Saturday. According to evidence gathered by Sheriff Phelps, the white men were after another negro, whom they were unable to find, when the shooting took place. Hearing in court of common pleas has been set for September 28.

# NO BAIL FOR WHITE MEN IN NEGRO CASE

Montgomery Advertiser

Whatley and Small Bound Over to Grand Jury in Court of Common Pleas

Montgomery Advertiser

W. H. Whatley and R. C. Small, white men charged with the murder of

Bessie Koonce, 15 year old negro girl, were Friday denied bail by Judge Thorington, of the court of common

pleas, following a preliminary hearing. The men were bound over to the grand jury.

The killing is said to have occurred Friday night, when the defendants, it was alleged, fired into the negro house near the Hayneville road. Two charges of assault with intent to murder docketed against the men,

on a warrant sworn out by the girl's mother, Zula Koonce, were nolle prosed.

Willa Henderson, charged with violation of the prohibition law, was fined \$100 and costs, while a similar case against Anderson Davis was continued until October 12. Dave Brown, also charged with violating the dry law, was continued until October 12.

Charges of assault with intent to murder and breach of peace docketed against J. H. Avinger, were nolle prossed, as was also a case of reckless

driving against J. H. Loveless. A negro admits being with Bodie Morris, who was killed by Fairfield police, while resisting arrest two hours after the attack, police say, while driving any part in the attack.

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rest Tuesday by Birmingham Detective Jones, Patterson and McCombs. The negro admits being with Bodie Morris, who was killed by Fairfield police, while resisting arrest two hours after the attack, police say, while driving any part in the attack.

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# Murder of Russell

Montgomery Advertiser

Negro and Wife by Five Men Reported

8-16-23

Murder of Henry Ingram, Russell county negro, and his wife Sophie, by a band of 5 negro men, which occurred in Russell county near the Lee county line, Wednesday afternoon, was reported late Wednesday to Chief Walter K. McAdory, of the state law enforcement department.

The report stated that the 5 negro men entered Ingram's house and shot down Ingram and his wife Sophie. The motive of the crime was thought to be robbery, as authorities who searched the house are said to have found \$935 in cash hidden away which the murderers had overlooked.

At the time the report of the murders reached Chief McAdory, it was stated that 3 negroes, Love Myhard, Panter Myhard and Douglas Jones, had been arrested in connection with the crime and were lodged in the Lee county jail.

# BESSEMER NEGRO HELD FOR ASSAULT ON T. C. I. OFFICER

Montgomery Advertiser

Was With Desperado Killed, but De-

nies Part in Assault.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 23.—Special to The Advertiser.—Oscar Walton, negro, 26, last taken part

in the attack on Special Officer T. M. Smith, of the Tennessee Coal Iron and Railroad Company, who was beaten in

unconsciousness and then shot five times, was held in the Bessemer jail

on a charge of assault with intent to murder Wednesday, following his ar-

rest Tuesday by Birmingham Detective Jones, Patterson and McCombs. The negro admits being with Bodie Morris, who was killed by Fairfield police, while resisting arrest two hours after the attack, police say, while driving any part in the attack.

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Killings — 1923.

Delaware.

# MAN BRUTALLY CLUBBED TO DEATH BY THREE COPS

## DIED IN HOSPITAL FROM A FRACTURED SKULL

Two policemen were held without bail to await the action of the Coroner and a third officer was paroled in the custody of his superior officer and he was sent to Hahnemann Hospital Saturday by Magistrate Renshaw after being suspended by Assistant Superintendent of Police Lenny having been suspended by Assistant Superintendent of Police Lenny he muttered to the doctor that the on charges of brutally murdering the police had beaten him without cause. colored proprietor of a cigar store on Shaw died and an investigation was Eighth Street near Buttonwood. Mr. ordered.

George Shaw, aged 35, who died in Assistant Superintendent of Police Hahnemann Hospital from a fractured skull, caused by a beating given fore him and after a lengthy quiz, him by the three cops at 3 A. M. on June 16.

under arrest, and Magistrate Ren-

The policemen held for the Coroner shaw summoned to give them an immediate hearing. At the hearing the district, and George F. Jones, of the cops averred they were attacked by Forty-second district. Patrolman Ed-Shaw without cause. They said they ward Lancaster, of the Thirty-first were stationed nearby on vice quarantined district, was released in the custody of duty, and Patrolman Jones en- of Lieutenant Ellis, his commanding officer. The cops were detailed to cigarettes. As he emerged from the the Eighth district on quarantine duty store he was followed by Shaw, who and were stationed in front of disor-hurled a bottle at him, according to derly houses near Shaw's store. The the cops. Keeley said he attempted to health quarantine was not placed on interfere and was attacked in a like Shaw's store, according to persons in manner by the storekeeper. Shaw, the neighborhood, who said that Shaw they aver, also threatened them with bore an excellent reputation. He was a gun. After a tussel, during which married and had two children.

### Mystery Shrouds Attack

A great deal of mystery shrouds the attack on Shaw. Police refuse to comment about it and say he was arrested after attacking three police officers. Neighbors say that Shaw was a quiet, law-abiding citizen and never attempted to interfere with the duties of the officers on quarantine duty. They scout the theory that the cigar store keeper attacked the cops.

The attack on Shaw occurred at 3 o'clock last Saturday morning, but was kept so quiet that no report of the affair was made public until Saturday when Shaw died in the hospital.

Lieutenant Humphreys, of the Eighth district, said Shaw was brought to the station house by three cops and slated on charges of carry-

ing concealed deadly weapons and disorderly conduct. While being examined before being placed in a cell it was noticed his head was badly battered

pital immediately. He lapsed into unconsciousness after being admitted to the institution, but before doing so he muttered to the doctor that the police had beaten him without cause. Shaw died and an investigation was

ordered the arrest of the three men.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Kenny ordered the three officers be- ing concealed deadly weapons and dis-

orderly conduct. While being examin- ed before being placed in a cell it was noticed his head was badly battered

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# Killings - 1923.

Arkansas

~~Commercial Appeal~~  
Officers Summoned Arrive After Kill  
~~Magnolia, Ark.~~  
~~ing Takes Place.~~  
~~3-6-23~~

~~HOW SPRINGS, Ark., March 5.—Officers hastily summoned late this afternoon did not arrive at the home of C. C. Williams, a negro, in time to save him from being killed at the hands of Dewey Mann, a white man about 30 years. Mann is employed at a dairy near the home of Williams, which was the scene of the killing. Robert Williams, a 17-year-old son of the victim, had been visited by Mann, witnesses said, and had gone into his home, to be followed by Mann, who told them he would go get a gun and kill Robert Williams.~~

The mother of the young negro hurried out to a neighbor's farm to telephone for officers, and when she got back to the house the shooting took place. Officers arrived just after Mann had left with his shotgun for the woods. Robert, the son, told officers that when Mann came in the door to shoot him, his father cried out: "Help, murder, murder," and Mann told him to shut up or he would kill him, and the father excitedly cried out again, and Mann killed him.

## NEGRO'S SKULL CRUSHED.

~~Hit in Head by White Man After Quarrel Over Building Fire.~~  
~~Commercial Appeal~~  
~~3/20/23~~

~~SEALCY, Ark., March 19.—Cecil Heggie, a young white man, crushed the skull of Lacey Davis, a negro, this morning with an iron bar following a quarrel that started over the building of a fire at the office of Black Brothers' lumber mill, where both men are employed. Heggie has not been arrested as officers have been unable to locate him. It is believed he is hiding somewhere in town awaiting the outcome of the negro's wound.~~

~~Davis is in a critical condition, and may not live, the blow being just over his ear.~~

~~Tennessee.~~  
Heggie is out on bond on a charge of burglary and grand larceny, his case having been continued at the last term of circuit court. There is also a whisky charge against him. It is said that Heggie has been in several fights before this one. Davis has served a term in the penitentiary for the murder of another negro.

## ACCUSED SLAYER CAUGHT.

~~Negro Charged With Killing White Man Near Pine Bluff.~~  
~~Commercial Appeal~~  
~~3/24/23~~

~~PINE BLUFF, Ark., May 23.—Abraham Clark, negro, who was wanted in connection with the killing of Roy Finley, white man, at Cornerstone Saturday night, has been apprehended and is now in custody of the McGehee officers, according to a telegram received this afternoon by Sheriff Sam F. Vaulx.~~

~~The shooting followed a quarrel between Finley and the negro who were alleged to have been gambling. Finley was shot three times through the abdomen Saturday night and died in a local hospital about 7 o'clock Sunday morning.~~

~~The local sheriff's office was not notified of the shooting until 10 o'clock Sunday morning. Sheriff Vaulx and Deputies McBurnett, Vick and Lyle, left immediately for Cornerstone, where they spent the entire day searching for the negro. It was learned that he was headed toward McGehee and Sheriff Vaulx notified all the officers throughout that section to watch for him. The search has been carried on night and day since Sunday and Clark was arrested near McGehee about noon today.~~

## NEGRO SHOOTS TEAM BOSS.

~~MAGNOLIA, Ark., July 3.—Brooks Smith, team boss at Moore & Brown's hardwood mill, was shot yesterday morning by Will Rose, negro, who works at the mill. It seems that Mr. Smith and the negro had some trouble in the woods early in the morning. The negro left the woods and went to his home, got his gun and came back and waited on the road until Smith came along, when he opened fire on him. Smith was shot once in the side, receiving a painful wound, but the physicians say he will recover. The negro made his getaway.~~

## ARKANSAN IS HELD

### FOR KILLING NEGRO

~~The Commercial  
Lloyd Tucker to Face Charge ✓~~

~~at Osceola.  
Appeal 8-21-23~~

Lloyd Tucker, 25, of Nodena, Ark., who is alleged to have shot and killed Sam Jones, negro, near Osceola, Ark., about three weeks ago, was arrested at Calhoun Avenue and Main Street late yesterday afternoon by Detective Sergeant John Foppiano and D. H. Dickson, special agent of the Frisco railway.

Tucker is held as a fugitive from justice and will face a murder charge when he is taken back to Osceola.

Tucker was carrying an automatic revolver when taken into custody.

Tucker told Detective Sergeant Foppiano that he shot Jones when the negro cursed him. Advices from Osceola state that Jones was shot in the back.

## ROOTS FOR NEGRO BALL TEAM

### KILLED

~~The Savannah Ga.  
Calico Rock, Ark., Aug. 23.—(Preston News Service) Houston Moss, aged 24, is in jail at Melbourne, in connection with the death Sunday of Charles Davis, aged 23, who was slugged with a baseball bat Saturday at Newburg during a ball game between the Newburg white team and the Lacross Negro team.~~

~~McGehee, Ark., Aug. 23.—Houston Moss is said to have taken offence because Davis was rooting for the Negro team. Both men were white.~~

Killings - 1923

# STABBED

To Death, Florida Man Is  
Arrested

*Newspaper News*  
MIAMI, Fla., Jan. 12.—Herbert Evans, Negro, implicated in the fatal stabbing of A. D. Storr, Negro, Christmas night, was brought to Miami the other day by Deputy Sheriff E. J. Starling from Ft. Lauderdale.

Evans was implicated by Storr in a dying statement which Storr made to City Detective W. S. Wilkinson before his death.

According to an account of the killing received by the police Storr was stabbed in the back on his own front porch.

Evans was arrested by Sheriff Paul Bryan of Broward county while working on a dredge beat several miles west of Ft. Lauderdale.

**BRADENTOWN FLA. HERALD**

SEPTEMBER 27, 1923

J. E. Bowdoin, marshal of Palmetto, and better known as "Pistol Pete," was arrested shortly after 4 o'clock Friday afternoon by Chief Deputy Sheriff D. R. Brown, on a charge of murder, the alleged victim being one John Robinson, a negro, fatally shot by Bowdoin, then a deputy sheriff, on the morning of Dec. 13, in a hammock north of Ellenton where the negro was working at a moonshine still which the deputy had discovered.

The man making the charge is B. D. Brantley, who was Bowdoin's assistant on this hunt for moonshiners. Brantley at the coroner's inquest held the day of the killing declared that the negro fired at "Pistol Pete" and that Bowdoin ducked behind a protecting tree just in time to save his life, then fired at the negro, who ran a few steps and fell dying.

But now Brantley declared it was unprovoked murder; that the negro had no weapon in his hand but was in the act of elevating his hands on command from Bowdoin to do so when the marshal fired.

"This is a frameup on me by my political enemies," said Bowdoin to a Herald man Saturday morning, when asked if he cared to make a statement to the public. "Of course I am innocent of the crime charged. It will be so proved. This is a frameup and nothing else."

## Sickbed "Confession"

Brantley also is an employe of the State Attorney G. B. Knowles. The city of Palmetto. Palmetto citizens sheriff went. The prosecutor did not state that Bowdoin has assisted the go.

To the sheriff Brantley stated that man and been a good friend to him. he was a very sick man, and that he Several weeks ago Brantley was feared he might die and had some taken to a local hospital to be opera-thing on his mind that he wanted to ed on for appendicitis. After the tell hom. It was then that he told the sheriff that he has perjured him-

## Florida

self at the coroner's inquest when that if he wanted to live in south striving to load the gun would have he said Bowdoin had shot the negro Florida he must state that the negro been hit in the arm. It developed in in self-defense; that the negro was fired first and that Bowdoin killed the examination later of the defendant in cold blood. him in self-defense. ant that the negro was left-handed.

The sheriff told the prosecutor. When the coroner's jury was summoned Brantley told just that coroner's jury, said he did not notice story. That closed the incident until the negro's right arm. Nor did C. B. his "confession" to the sheriff and Scott, another member of the jury. the arrest of the Palmetto marshal. The prosecutor called Justice T. Sticks to His Tale J. Mason of Palmetto to the stand. Attorney Singeltary cross-examined. He was the coroner at the inquest. retained John B. Singeltary to defend him. A crowd gathered, most of them coming from Palmetto and filled the courtroom. the story as "Pistol Pete" told him dead man's arm.

Brantley's story, told as state to tell it, to the coroner's jury. That witness, was in the same vein as that now he was telling the facts.

told by him to the sheriff. He said At 6:15 o'clock Judge Fish announced that he would adjourn the o'clock, on the morning of Monday hearing until 9 o'clock Saturday preceding Wednesday of the killing, morning, and would hold Bowdoin and that Bowdoin told him they were without bail. Immediately a group of going to Arcadia. Instead they landed at the still in the hammock north of Ellenton. They remained hid in the brush, each within gun range of so that he would not have to be the still. They saw no one until Wednesday morning about 11 o'clock, conference with the judge, the when the negro came to the still. sheriff granted the request deputizing. He was armed with a single-barreling Joe Pedrick. The marshal's shotgun. friends greeted this decision with

Bowdoin was hidden behind a large oak tree, and Brantley in a clump of palmettoes, said the witness. The Saturday morning the hearing was negro worked around the still for continued, this time in the circuit a time, carrying his gun in his hand. Finally he laid down the gun and took off his coat. court room. It was crowded with spectators, a number of women among them. Mrs. Bowdoin sat at her husband's side inside the railing.

Then, said Brantley, Bowdoin, stepping from behind the tree, called out:

"Hands up!"

The negro started to raise his hands immediately, the witness stated, but Bowdoin fired and the man fell.

Then Bowdoin and Brantley walked up to the dead body.

"Is this Ben Mathis?" Brantley says Bowdoin asked him.

"No," Brantley said his reply was.

"Then I'm d—d if I haven't shot the wrong negro," the prosecuting witness says Bowdoin told him.

Bowdoin then seized the negro's gun and fired the load into the tree behind which Bowdoin had been riding, Brantley says, and the witness avers that Bowdoin told him

"Did you not tell me just a minute ago that there were no wounds in that arm?" demanded Mr. Knowles.

"No sir; I said I did not notice," replied Mr. Mason.

The state put J. J. Lamb of Bradenton on the stand as an expert in the use of shotguns. He was asked how far a load of buckshot would spread by the time it had gone fifteen yards from the muzzle of a gun. He said about ten inches if the gun were choke bore, about a foot if smooth bore. That if a man were engaged in the act of unbreeching a gun to load it and another man fired at him it would be impossible, or nearly so for a load of shot to wound him in the right side and front without striking his right arm, or the stock of the gun.

"But," interjected Attorney Singeltary, "if the man were left-handed, what then?"

Mr. Lamb replied that in such event the result would be entirely different.

The state rested at this point and the defense introduced the several members of the coroner's jury, who had already testified as witnesses for the state. Mr. Singeltary quizzed them particularly about what Brantley had told the coroner's jury and the members thereof as individuals in relation to the shooting, about the load of shot in the tree, and the places where the two officers were concealed. Attorney Knowles entered frequent objections against what he said was "hearsay evidence." Indeed, a large part of the morning was consumed by the two attorneys in making objections.

It was stated by several members

of the coroner's jury that Brantley leaped behind the tree and fired in bond as \$10,000, there was a rush could not have seen Bowdoin, nor return, as soon as the smoke cleared of prominent Palmetto men to sign could he have seen the negro whenaway. He said he could see the negro the bond. The bond bears the following he was shot, from his hiding place, holding the gun in his left hand and unless he stood up at the time. Brantley apparently trying to reload it. The signatures: J. P. Davidson, M. ley had testified that he way lying negro ran forty or fifty feet and fell. Harilee, H. L. Jones, Council Wooten, down to keep the negro from seeing "I went out and called Mr. Brantley S. W. Strickland, J. W. Nettles, L. him.

**Defendant Repudiates Charge** "I asked him, 'Is this Ben Mathis?' he replied, 'I don't know.' I said, 'W. Hamilton.'

Just before noon the defendant was put on the stand by the defense. 'It don't look like Ben.' and Brantley He stated that in the middle of December of last year himself and a Bowdoin said he had dropped his Mr. Marsh found a still about ready pistol and went back to look for it, to run. On the following Monday then returned and told Brantley to before daylight he, his two daughters, remain with the body while he went Marsh and Brantley went to the town to summon the coroner.

still. Brantley and Bowdoin remained hid until daylight when they placed eltary, repeating Brantley's statement that he, Brantley, had seen how side, Bowdoin on the other, about Bowdoin shot the negro, and that fifty or sixty yards apart. It was Bowdoin had told him he didn't want in a thick hammock and scrub, etc have any more killings but some said. He could not see Brantley and thing would happen if he didn't see he did not believe Brantley could it his way, Bowdoin denied making see him. He trimmed a path from his any such statement or threat to hiding place to Brantley's around Brantley, and added that "Brantley the edge of a pond, so that they was hid and couldn't see the negro could communicate without making or me either, except in a few places any noise. One or the other remain-through the palmettoes."

ed constantly on watch from Monday before daylight until Wednesday, the negro when he saw his life was camping in the woods and preparing in danger, that the negro fired first their food over a fire a short distance from the still. Wednesday morning he instructed Brantley to watch and started to a telephone to find if it was known he and Brantley were watching the still. He went out and saw the negro coming toward him, and returned to Brantley and told him the black was coming.

On cross-examination by Prosecutor Knowles, Bowdoin said he had not hailed the negro. Brantley's statement was that Bowdoin called to the negro to throw up his hands and fired immediately thereafter at the negro.

Bowdoin said when he first saw the negro the black had nothing in his hands, had on a cap and was in his shirtsleeves. It was nearly an hour before he came to the still. The negro had a five-gallon can of gasoline, a sack of jugs and a shotgun. He put down the gas and sacks and stood the shotgun up against a barrel of mash, then drew off a lot of stuff from the 250-gallon tank that was set up and started pumping air into the force tank. Bowdoin said he was reclining on his stomach looking through some palmetto brush and could see the negro only partially. Bowdoin says he happened to move, the negro heard him and looked his way, and Bowdoin said he could tell the black had seen him. The negro, he says, jumped to the left, grabbed his shotgun and fired. Bowdoin had

Council Wooten, Dr. A. Q. English and F. B. White, all well known citizens of Palmetto, testified that Brantley's reputation for truth and veracity was very poor. In fact, each witness, in answer to inquiry by Attorney Singeltary, if they would believe a statement by Brantley made

When Judge Fish announced the

Killings—1923.

Florida.

**HELD FOR  
TWO MURDERS  
IN FLORIDA**  
*The New York News*

BRADENTOWN, Fla., Aug. 25.— Jesse Colson, held in jail here since his arrest Tuesday, today was charged with killing two colored persons.

According to Sheriff Wingate, Colson confessed yesterday that he killed a man in Madison county, this state, in 1911. The crime preyed upon his mind and he told Philip Jenkins, his friend. Then, fearing that Jenkins might betray him, he called the latter to the door of his cabin Tuesday morning at Myakka City, and stabbed him to death.

Killings—1923.

Georgia.

# NEGRO IS SEIZED, KILLS NEGRO BOY, AS DOUBLE SLAYER THEN SHOOTS SELF

*Atlanta Constitution*

Savannah, Ga., November 23.

(Special.)—After sixteen hours of steady work by men and dogs, an arrest has been made in the Mudie murder case, and today a warrant charging murder was sworn out for Caesar Huger, a negro, with a chain gang record extending back over twenty years. He is charged with the murder of Mrs. Agnes Mudie and her two-year-old daughter, Dorris, on the morning of November 24, at Mudie bungalow on Broome Avenue, seven miles from this city.

The guilty person had eight full hours start of officers, for the murder was not discovered until 7 o'clock Wednesday night. County police declare they have evidence against the negro in jail, but would not divulge any circumstances, nor allow the negro to be interviewed. They are prosecuting their search for more evidence, however, and it may be that others will be implicated, it is said.

Strands of hair held in the clutches of the dead woman when found and the presence of footprints of a woman on the floor of the house, prints thought to be unlike prints of the murdered woman, with some other circumstances, started a theory today that another woman may have been in the house at the time of the killing and may have had something to do with it.

An oil station received a call an hour or so after the time it has been supposed Mrs. Mudie and her baby were slain, from a woman who said she was Mrs. Mudie, asking about some kerosene. The time of the call has added a new phase to the theory that a woman may have had something to do with the case. Some officers believe another woman called and represented herself to be Mrs. Mudie, but they fail to locate a motive. County and other officers differ in opinion on the "other woman theory," some declaring that the hair in the woman's hand was her own.

Houston County Farmer  
Angered Because Negroes Who Owed Him  
Drove by in Car.

Macon, Ga., December 25.—Roy M. Aultman, 36, prominent Houston county farmer, shot himself in the head at his home at Mr. Dunbar, Ga., today, after he discovered that he had killed a negro boy. Aultman died on the way to a hospital in this city.

Aultman, according to witnesses, had been drinking and became angry when negroes to whom he had been loaning money rode past his home in an automobile. He opened fire with a revolver upon the car, and a small negro boy was killed.

The farmer went to the automobile, viewed the body, returned to the house and fired a bullet into his own brain.

Killings — 1923

# FEDERAL AGENT ACCUSES CARTERS AT STATENVILLE

*Montgomery*  
2-5-23

Sheriff Unable to Locate Mann and Will Carter, Two Charged With Killing Lockridge.

## SHOOTING OUTGROWTH OF VAT DIFFICULTIES

Federal Agents Said to Have Been Shot While Trying to Enforce Cattle Dipping Laws.

Statenville, Ga., February 4.—Dr. S. Horn, of Atlanta, federal dipping agent for the state of Georgia, arrived here today and swore out affidavits upon which warrants were issued for the arrest of Mann Carter and his son, Will, on charges of murder.

The warrants were placed in the hands of Sheriff W. W. Pennington, of Echols county, but he reported tonight that he had been unable to locate either of the men named in the warrants.

The Carters are alleged to have shot and killed Mack Lockridge, federal cattle dipping inspector, yesterday, and also to have wounded R. S. Ritchley, his assistant, both of Dawson, Ga.

For more than a year there have been clashes between federal officers and farmers of this section over the enforcement of the cattle dipping law for the eradication of ticks. Several persons have been shot. The government established a camp near here, with two machine guns and other arms, in an attempt to stop the warfare.

### RITCHLEY TELLS OF SHOOTING.

Valdosta, Ga., February 4.—(Special.)—So far as can be learned here he was not satisfied with their statement and believed he would give them a copy of charges.

have been sworn out for Mann Carter and his son, Will Carter, it is reported. The woman accepted the copy tendered her while Cross tore up the copy of dipping inspectors, who was shot in the back and seriously wounded, handed him and threw the fragments reported to be improving.

In a statement at the hospital he tempted to arrest the negro, reaching day Ritchley gave a full account of the into his pocket for his nippers. As he tragedy. Contrary to reports given this, Cross, a very powerful black, out yesterday, he stated that the Car-grappled with Lee and almost immediately were not plowing in a field where they were approached by agents, but pistol, a large calibre weapon. They were bird hunting.

He began firing while Lee groped It is reported that several federal officers left this city today for the scene of the trouble.

## NEGRO AND POLICE

## IN DUEL TO DEATH

*Atlanta* (Disturbance)

Lieutenant Lee Kills Dave Cross and is Killed in Pistol Battle at Americus.

Americus, Ga., February 20. (Special.)—Homer A. Lee, lieutenant of police, of Americus, and Dave Cross, negro, were both shot to death here this afternoon in a pistol duel fought shortly after 5 o'clock in the negro cemetery just off Ashby street. The officer was shot twice, one bullet penetrating his breast and causing death within a few minutes. The negro was shot only once, the bullet entering his left breast.

The weapon used by Cross belonged to Lee and was wrested from the officer when he attempted to put his hands upon Cross, whom he was arresting on a charge of disorderly conduct. A second pistol carried by Lee enabled him to kill his man, however, notwithstanding its smaller caliber. When persons attracted by the firing reached the scene, Lee was lying prone upon his face, his pistol nearby,

Lee's pistol lay only a short distance from the negro's body. With Cross, when he was accosted by the officer, was Polly Brookins, a negro woman with a police record. The pair were coming out of a wooded spot along an unfrequented path leading from the tracks of the Central of Georgia railroad into the negro cemetery. According to the woman, Lee asked the pair where they had been and was told "we're just coming out

said he would not take any subpoena. The woman accepted the copy tendered her while Cross tore up the copy of dipping inspectors, who was shot in the back and seriously wounded, handed him and threw the fragments reported to be improving.

In Lee's face. The officer then attempted to arrest the negro, reaching into his pocket for his nippers. As he tragedy. Contrary to reports given this, Cross, a very powerful black, out yesterday, he stated that the Car-grappled with Lee and almost immediately were not plowing in a field where they were approached by agents, but pistol, a large calibre weapon. They were bird hunting.

He began firing while Lee groped It is reported that several federal officers left this city today for the scene of the trouble.

Lee has been an officer here many years, being connected with the Sumter county convict gang before becoming a police officer. He was highly esteemed here. He is survived by his wife and several children, all of them grown.

## Body of Negro Man Is Found in Bushes On Bank of Ogeechee

Statesboro, Ga., April 15. (Special.)—In the water for almost four weeks and badly swollen, the body of Joe Perry, colored, was found Thursday lodged in the bushes on the Ogeechee river bank near the clubhouse at Jenkins bridge by a party of Statesboro fishermen who had gone to the clubhouse for an outing. Perry was about 40 years old and had been employed by Blitch & McLoach, who operate a turpentine business in the vicinity of Jenkins' bridge.

Four weeks ago Chief of Police Scarborough, of this city, was on a camping trip at the clubhouse and while he was up the stream a negro, supposed to have been Perry, came up on the porch and frightened some of the young women. He did not remain long, and soon after he disappeared.

Some of the relatives of the negro reached the scene, Lee was lying prone upon his face, his pistol nearby. He was subject to fits, it is said, while the body of Cross was lying in an open field 50 to 100 yards distant, and it is presumed he got near the river and fell in. There is a strong current at that particular place in the Ogeechee, which probably swept his body down the stream. The body was on the opposite side of the river when found and the Effingham county coroner was notified, and an inquest was held.

Lee's pistol lay only a short distance from the negro's body. With Cross, when he was accosted by the officer, was Polly Brookins, a negro woman with a police record. The pair were coming out of a wooded spot along an unfrequented path leading from the tracks of the Central of Georgia railroad into the negro cemetery. According to the woman, Lee asked the pair where they had been and was told "we're just coming out

Georgia

## FARMER SLAIN BY BOY, 12, IN TERRELL CO.

Displeased With Work of Weevil

### Pickers, Fatal Argument Follows.

DAWSON, Ga., June 28.—Lester Powell, farmer of Terrell County, was killed at his farm late Wednesday night by a 12-year-old negro, Joe Green. According to reports, the negro had been picking boll weevils during the day, and for some reason had displeased Powell, who went to Jackson's corn patch and the white man

## GEORGIA WHITE KILLS NEGRO FARMER AND IS RELEASED BY CORONER

Apparent Cold-Blooded Murder Follows When White Man's Cows Ravish

### Negro's Corn.

*New York Age*  
Moran, Ga.—Asberry Jackson, a Negro farmer, was shot and killed in what appears to have been wanton cold-bloodedness, by Ben Hill Arnold, a white farmer, the shooting taking place just across the line in Monroe county.

Arnold's cows had been breaking into Jackson's corn patch and the white man had failed to take any steps to protect his mother's house. Wednesday night to see about the work for the colored man's crop. As a result of this, Arnold had taken out a warrant against the negro and started to beat the Jackson, Arnold alleging trespass on boy's mother, Sarah Green, with a part of the latter's cattle, the court large stick and shotgun.

order being secured on September 10. That afternoon, John Hunt, a rural mail carrier, found the body of the colored man lying in the road where he had been beaten. The gun went off, the load hitting Powell had fallen when shot. The matter was in the chest and heart, killing him. reported to the sheriff, who called the Monroe county coroner into the case.

No witnesses were called by the coroner's jury, the only statement heard being that given by Arnold himself. The white man said that when he went to his mail box during the afternoon of the day on which Asberry had secured the warrant, he saw the Negro. Arnold claimed that

the man had a knife and advanced on him with the weapon in his hand, that he fired one shot from his shot gun which failed to stop Jackson's advance; a second shot, however, killed the man.

Arnold left the body in the road and made no effort to report the occurrence.

The coroner's jury returned a verdict of justifiable homicide, but many of the white citizens of both Monroe and Crawford counties are of the opinion that the matter should be given a more thorough sift.

## NEGRO SHOT DOWN WHERE E. C. STIGALL SHOT THREE MEN

The exact spot where E. C. Stigall, head of the police vice squad, shot down three men on Courtland near Houston Friday was the scene of another shooting at exactly the same hour Saturday evening.

Harry Jones, negro, of 233 1/2 Houston street, was shot through the jaw by an unidentified white man whose name is said to be Cobb. He escaped.

Jones and Rastus Brown were walking down Courtland and to Houston, witnesses said, when an automobile drove up and stopped. One of its occupants, a white man, shouted to Brown, "You pulled a gun on me didn't you." Brown cried back a denial. The man pulled a gun and Brown took to his heels. Two shots were fired without effect at Brown and the assailant then turned his gun on Jones, hitting him once. The automobile then drove off at high speed, its occupants escaping. Jones was taken to Grady hospital.

# NEGRO IS INDICTED FOR BUTTS KILLING

Jackson, Ga., July 25.—(Special.) Indicted today by the Butts county grand jury for the murder of C. A. Pittman, prominent Butts county merchant, ferryman and farmer, on Friday night of last week, Evans McDowell, Jasper county negro, will be placed on trial in superior court here Monday, according to the statement of Solicitor General E. M. Owen.

The case will be taken up immediately after court convenes, it is stated. Judge W. E. Searcy, Jr., has appointed Judge H. M. Fletcher and J. Threatt Moore, members of the Jackson bar, to defend McDowell.

Officers declare McDowell has made a full confession of the robbery and murder. It is believed that only a short time will be consumed in the trial. Officers who are familiar with the case believe there is no probability of an outbreak. The five other negroes arrested and held in the Atlanta tower will be confined until after McDowell is tried and sentenced, it was stated.

## FARMER IN TERRELL IS KILLED BY NEGRO

Dawson, Ga., June 28.—(Special.) Lester K. Powell, white farmer, aged about 30 years, was shot and instantly killed about 8 o'clock last night by Joe Green, a young negro farm hand, about 14 years of age, when Powell went to the home of the negro's mother to see about some work the negroes were supposed to have done.

Sarah Green, the mother of the boy, states that Powell came to the house and was beating her with a stick when she called to her children not to let him kill her.

At this stage of the scuffle the boy joined in with a single-barrel shot gun, which Powell grabbed by the muzzle, holding the stick with the other hand, which the woman had taken hold of. The boy admits he pulled the trigger, which fired the fatal shot during the scuffle.

It seems that Powell had had previous trouble with the negroes about their work and there was ill-feeling on both sides.

Sarah Green, the mother of the boy, and two daughters are in the Terrell county jail, while Joe has been spirited away by officers and placed in jail at some other point for safe keeping.

Powell is survived by his mother, two sisters and a brother, all of this county. He lived on the Dawson-

Parrott road, about four miles out of the city, and the shooting occurred on his mother's farm near her home.

Ambush Murder  
Increases Toll  
In Death Swamp

A-26-13

Waycross, Ga., September 26.—Another victim was added to the death roll of the Okefenokee swamp when the body of John Hagan, former Waycross policeman and Brantley county officer, rolled from the seat of the wagon he had been driving as it approached the home of John Cruze on Cowhouse Island yesterday, according to word received by Sheriff H. J. Sweat here today. Hagan, according to the coroner's verdict, was shot from ambush and killed by parties unknown.

The killing of Hagan from ambush adds one more to the total of mysterious deaths in the Okefenokee swamp, officers said here tonight in discussing the affair.

Officers investigating the crime, discovered what they believed was the spot where someone had lain in wait for Hagan for several hours. A searching party was seeking the slayer in the swamp tonight.

The body was brought to Waycross and the coroner's verdict was returned late today.

## MERCHANT MURDERED AND THROWN IN RIVER

Commercial Appeal  
Negro Confesses to Brutal

Crime Near Jackson, Ga.

Memphis, Tenn., July 21.—Charged with the murder of C. A. Pittman, aged merchant and ferryman whose body, with head crushed, was found failed to pick up a scent and late to in the river near Pittman's ferry early today, Evans McDowell, whom officers say has confessed, was rushed to Atlanta this afternoon for safe keeping.

McDowell and two other negroes, Jim Goolsby and Lee Roberts, were arrested early today. Bloodstained overalls were found at the home of McDowell's father, officers said. McDowell was brought to Jackson this afternoon and confessed, officers say, claiming that another negro threw the body into the river. Officers are now searching for the fourth negro. Goolsby and Roberts were taken to Atlanta for safekeeping.

# Mother and Tot Hacked to Death In Georgia Home

Savannah, Ga., November 21.—In a pool of blood with several cuts on skull and causing almost instant death, injury, a heavy blow, apparently with the back side of the hatchet, or some other heavy weapon, crushing her the throat and everthing about indicating a severe struggle, the body of Mrs. Agnes Mudie was found by her husband, a mechanic, who returned to his bungalow home on Laroche avenue, seven miles from Savannah, tonight.

Beside the body of the mother, with her toys strewn all about, was the body of the baby daughter, Doris, who had been struck dead by a blow from a hatchet.

Mr. Mudie and his 14 year-old son, Lester, left home this morning shortly after 6 o'clock for Savannah. They returned about 7 o'clock tonight and finding no lights burning in their home immediately made an investigation.

The body of Mrs. Mudie was found in the kitchen. Blood was spattered all about the room. By her body was a broken razor. The hatchet of the household was missing, and from the wounds on the woman's body it was evident that the slayer resorted to the hatchet when the razor was broken.

As soon as the alarm was given county police with trail hounds went to the scene. The coroner was called and it was found that both the mother and baby had been dead from six to eight hours. The trail hounds

had no resemblance of a clue to the slayer. Just behind the home is a

dense swamps, and it is thought the killer, probably blood-spattered, made for it as a hiding place.

### SIGNS OF STRUGGLE SHOWN BY BLOOD.

Savannah, Ga., November 21.—(Special.)—The coroner stated tonight that from the indications the slaying of Mrs. Mudie and the baby is undoubtedly work of a negro. County police also took this view. Evidently the struggle began in the kitchen, near the rear door where the slayer probably entered and seized the woman. Stains upon the door, upon the top of a small table, upon the refrigerator, and upon the walls show how the pair circled. Then the razor broke, and the killer finished his work with a hatchet, striking her twice, one blow penetrating the skull and causing instant death.

The child seemed to have only one

Killings—1023.

ACCUSED NEGRO  
SEEKS TO SHIFT

BLAME IN CRIME

*Attained*  
*negotiation*  
Indianapolis, December 2.—Testifying in his own behalf John Thomas Shaw, negro, on trial for the murder of Mrs. Helen Hager Whelchel, comely young widow, whose body was found on the railroad tracks beneath an overhead bridge west of the city the morning of November 28, today sought to place the blame for the crime on Jim (Hunky) John, an Albanian. He related practically the same story he had told to city detectives regarding John, shortly after he was brought back from the state prison at Michigan City, where he was taken for safekeeping after his arrest. 72-23-38

The state in closing its case earlier in the day had put on the witness stand Andrew Parker, negro, who was employed with Shaw at a local packing company. Parker testified he saw Shaw display the watch and ring identified as property of the slain widow at the packing plant the morning of November 28.

Replying to questions by his attorneys, Shaw said he did not know Mrs. Whelchel and "never had seen her and never heard of her."

Indiana.

Killings — 1923

## KILLS WOODS FOREMAN

Negro Charged With Death of Dan

O'Neill in Louisiana

(Associated Press)

LAGE CHARLES, LA., Feb. 18.—Dan O'Neill, woods foreman for a logging company at Lunita, in the north-western part of Calcasieu parish, was shot and killed early today at a negro dance hall of that place by a negro of the woods and swamps. whose name is believed to be Joe Adams. The shooting, according to the authorities, followed a quarrel in which O'Neill became engaged with one or more of the negroes.

O'Neill was shot at four times, one of the bullets taking effect. Adams was brought to Lake Charles tied in a small shack about a mile late today by a deputy sheriff and from the scene of the still."

## BLOODY CLOTHING IS FOUND BY SEARCHERS FOR MISSING DEPUTIES

*Marijuana Admitted*  
Eleven Held as Suspects

While Hunt Continues

For Officers  
*3/7/23*

**BELIEVE MEN SLAIN**

Troops Join Thousands of Louisiana Citizens and Officers

(Associated Press)

FRANKLIN, LA., March 6.

Blood-stained clothing believed by the authorities to have been taken from the bodies of Wesley Crain and Wiley Pierce, deputy sheriffs, missing since last Friday when they went into the swamps eight miles east of here to conduct a raid on a moonshine still, was found by searchers today at the home of one of the eleven men arrested as suspects in the disappearance of the officers.

Business was suspended, court adjourned and banks closed today while hundreds of Franklinton and Wash-

ington parish citizens joined Sheriff J. E. Bateman and twenty deputies in the search for the missing men. Sheriff Bateman said: "I am shot through the leg and am believed the officers had been killed desperate," she said the negro told during the raid on the still and their her. "You must give me food and bodies concealed by the slayers.

In addition to the four men arrested yesterday in connection with the disappearance of Crain and Pierce, seven citizens of Bowie who organized a posse and trailed the negro into the swamp.

Members of a troop of cavalry from Bogalusa joined the posse of more than a thousand men searching for the missing deputies.

PICK UP FROM PAN ..... .

The cavalry men volunteered as individuals and joined the hundreds of men who flocked here today from all parts of Washington parish to assist the authorities in the search. The posse gathered at the court house here this morning. Some brought bloodhounds and others bird dogs. All were well armed when they marched east toward Bogalusa to explore every part of the woods and swamps.

"Both men rode away on their horses Friday night," said Sheriff J. E. Bates. "and told me they would get the still before they returned. That is the last that I saw of them." The horse of Crain returned Sunday riderless, and we found Pierce's horse tied in a small shack about a mile from the scene of the still."

The sheriff said when he and his party searching for the missing officers came upon the spot where the still was located in the center of a swamp they found the still had been practically destroyed. There was evidence of a terrific struggle in and about the still which led him to believe the deputies had surprised the moonshiners and had been attacked.

Crain and Pierce had been active in the war on rum violators and the authorities fear the men were killed and their bodies thrown into some stream, or buried in the swampy ground.

## NEGRO FUGITIVE KILLED BY LOUISIANA FARMER

*Marijuana Tennessee*  
Hunger Brought Death to Conservation Agent's Slayer.

NEW ORLEANS, March 19.—Willie Johnson, negro, was shot and killed by a farmer early today near Bowie, La., after being surrounded in a swamp by a posse of several hundred white men. The negro had been pursued since last Monday when he shot and killed Robert Sellers, state conservation agent, at Waggoner, La. Several days later, he broke through a posse at Lockport, La., after shooting and dangerously wounding Deputy Sheriff Anatole Ayo of Iberville Parish.

The pursuit extended through several parishes and was led by Robert Sellers, Jr., son of the slain agent. The negro, wounded when young Sellers took the revolver from his dying father's hand and engaged in a pistol battle with him, was seen several times by the posse but to elude his pursuers.

Mrs. Ledt, an aged woman, living on the outskirts of Bowie, notified the sheriff Saturday morning that a posse wounded negro with pistol drawn between here and Bogalusa for the had come to her home and demanded aid.

"I am shot through the leg and am believed the officers had been killed desperate," she said the negro told during the raid on the still and their her. "You must give me food and matches quickly because if I am caught I will be hanged."

After the negro had been supplied with his wants, Mrs. Ledt notified Judge Clark, stated he pulled a pistol the deputies had missed in their search, and shot Pierce, killing him and then slaying Crain.

This morning the negro emerged from his hiding place and reached a

## Louisiana. FEAR VIOLENCE FOR SLAYERS OF DEPUTIES

Heavily Armed Men Guard Louisiana Jail.

## OFFICERS BURIED IN MUD

*Commercial Appeal*  
Two Men Captured After Hunt by More Than 1,000 Men Are Said to Have Confessed Killing Officers After Raid on Still.

*Memphis Tenn.*  
*3/8/23*

FRANKLINTON, La., March 7.—Bullet-pierced and tramped down by booted feet, the bodies of Wesley Crain and Wiley Pierce, deputy sheriffs of Washington Parish, slain by moonshiners they had captured at a still in the swamps eight miles east of here last Saturday morning, were found early this morning buried in a shallow grave a quarter of a mile from the destroyed still.

The carcass of a cow had been dragged on top of Crain's body. The body of Pierce had been pressed down in the 18 inches of mud and slush.

### Said To Have Confessed.

John Murphy and Gideon Rester, two of the men rounded up by a posse yesterday, are accused by the authorities of the crime. An official statement credited to the Franklinton authorities is that both men confessed.

A special session of the grand jury to investigate the killing has been summoned for tomorrow by Judge Prentiss E. Clark of the district circuit court.

Sheriff J. E. Bateman of Washington tonight placed a guard of heavily armed men around the jail here, in which besides Murphy and Rester, are confined ten other suspects taken into custody during the last few days.

The bodies of the two deputies were found buried a few feet apart, that of Pierce having been mutilated with an ax or some other sharp instrument.

The confession of the two men following a long grill by the authorities, Judge Clark announced. The questioning of the prisoners brought statements that the two deputies had come to their homes Saturday morning, raided the still and placed them under arrest. Murphy and Rester were searched and the party started on foot though the swamp.

At a narrow lane they were forced to walk single file. Murphy, said

prepared for burial.

The finding of the bodies and the confessions in the hands of the authorities brought to an end the greatest posse search ever staged in Louisiana, in which approximately 1,000 residents of Washington Parish, including members of a troop of cavalry from Bogalusa, have been engaged since Monday morning. Business practically ceased in Franklinton while business men and their employees joined in the search. Judge Clark adjourned circuit court for the same purpose.

for questioning.

### Operating on Large Scale.

Authorities of St. Bernard parish believe that whiskey runners are operating in the parish on a large scale and that cargoes are being unloaded from large vessels from the Bahamas to small boats which transfer the liquor to trucks for transportation to New Orleans.

Walter Keefe and Joseph Fabacher, two of the men arrested near the scene of the killing, who the police reported earlier in the day had announced their willingness to tell something of the shooting of the two officers, declared tonight they knew nothing about it.

## 3 WHITES SHOT AS BLACK SLAYER RESISTS ARREST

Thibodaux, La., November 16.—Two negroes are dead and three white men seriously wounded here as a result of an hour of terror today following a negro shooting scrape at Webre plantation.

One negro shot and killed another negro on the plantation and Deputy Sheriff Max Dupre and a posse of citizens with bloodhounds set out to capture him.

The desperado, who still is unidentified, was flushed in a cane brake by Deputy Dupre, but managed to get away after a brisk battle in which neither was hit. One of the bloodhounds, however, was killed by the fugitive. The posse next encountered him and the negro opened fire upon his pursuers with a shotgun. Before he was killed, he had wounded Adam Butler, Loviny Caudet and Robert Shaw. The first two were shot through the abdomen, while Shaw was shot through both legs and Maurice St. Germain wounded in the body.

### Second Truck Captured.

An hour later a second truck reached the bridge and was halted by Deputies Guerre and St. Germain. It was found to be loaded with whiskey and the driver was taken into custody. Close behind the truck was another automobile in which there were two men. Both were arrested.

Following the report of the killing of the deputies, Superintendent of Police Molony and a squadron of police went to the scene and offered their assistance. Authorities of both New Orleans and St. Bernard parish began a round-up of known bootleggers and by nightfall 12 men had been arrested.

Killings - 1923

Kentucky.

## FOUR DIE WHEN POSSE INVADES MOUNTAINS

Three Men, Woman Killed in  
Fight With 'Shiners.

ONE VICTIM POSSEMAN

*Commercial Appeal*  
Kentucky Officer Surround House  
and One Shot Down When De-  
mand Made for Surrender—One  
Volley Wipes Out Family.  
3/29/23.

HARLAN, Ky., March 28.—Three men and one woman were killed in a battle between members of a federal posse and alleged moonshiners near Ashner, Leslie County, Kentucky, early this morning.

The dead are: Ike Strong, Mrs. Della Strong, his wife; George Strong and Kelley Walker—the latter being a member of the posse.

### Known As Desperate Men.

The raiding squad had a warrant for Ike Strong, who was charged with illicit distilling of whisky. He and his brother, George Strong, were considered desperate men. The Strong house was surrounded by the posse and Walker went forward to demand the surrender of the men. George Strong is said to have fired upon Walker, shooting him through the breast and head, death resulting instantly. The posse then opened a general fire on the house and after two and one-half minutes there was no return of fire and investigation showed its inmates killed or dying. George Strong surviving an hour.

The posse found a still a few paces back of the house and two larger ones about 300 yards distant heavily barricaded with brush and earthen breastworks.

Killings—1923.

Mississippi.

# NEGRO CONFESSES TO AFTER KILLING 3 KILLING BRAKEMAN AND WOUNDING 8

Connie  
Chief of Police Overhears Man  
and Wife in Cell  
Memphis Mem

STARKVILLE, Miss., July 23.—The killing of W. C. Luncford, brakeman on the M. & O. railroad, who was shot to death early last Thursday night, was solved this morning by the voluntary confession of a negro named Walter Hughes and to Chief of Police W. W. Richey is due the credit.

Last Saturday evening the latter concealed himself in the jail after locking Hughes and wife in one cell. Later on both carried on an animated conversation.

"I tell you right now, You lied and lied about this until my neck is about to be broke, and to save my neck I'm going to tell the white people the truth," she said.

"Well, I can prove an alibi and get both out," he replied.

Yesterday morning in presence of the chief District Attorney Bell and a citizen, Hughes told the story of how he killed Luncford.

On Thursday, the day of the tragedy, he told his wife that he was going to West Point with his employer, W. W. Magruder, Jr., and would not return until 11 p. m. In the meantime he went to the house of another negro, named Hubert Ford and borrowed his pistol.

About dark he went to the old M. & O. depot and concealed himself near one of the coaches and waited until the man came. As Luncford stepped up on the top step to enter the coach the negro stealthily crept forward and fired one shot, the pistol was of a .38 caliber and of old-time make.

Hughes then returned to Ford's house, and handing him the pistol said "I just killed a white man."

The commitment trial of Hughes took place this evening before Mayor H. A. Beattie.

Chief Richey told the court of the voluntary confession, and Dr. Dodd recounted the examination made by him the night of the homicide and it was several hours before he could with only these two witnesses sworn be rescued by a party of ten men who the defendant was remanded back to jail to await the action of grand jury, which convenes in October. Belles Hughes, his wife, was then arraigned and plead not guilty to the charge of wilful perjury and was held in a bond of \$1,000 until circuit court convenes.

It will be remembered that she implicated three white men, one of whom she swore she saw shoot the brakeman.

At first it was thought trouble would follow, but the disposition of the case and the jailing of the guilty man has caused the excitement to subside.

Prosecuting Attorney Bell worked assiduously in the affair and assisted in linking the chain of evidence against the accused together with Chief of Police Richey.

Chief of Police Overhears Man  
and Wife in Cell  
Memphis Mem

Hundreds of People Near Drew  
Miss., Make Drive for Des-

perate Negro Who Weilds  
Gun With Deadly Effect

DREW, MISS., Dec. 15.—Pierced

by twenty machine gun bullets, the dying body of Joe Pullen, negro, who for more than seven hours Friday night held a posse of several hundred men at bay, was dragged from a drainage ditch near here shortly before one o'clock this morning.

The negro, virtually lifeless, was brought here and at 1 o'clock was lying in the main street, while approximately 150 persons, most of them members of the posse, gathered about him. It was believed that Pullen could live only a few minutes.

DREW, MISS., Dec. 14.—Three men were shot to death and eight were wounded—two of them seriously in a man hunt which began shortly after noon today when Joe Pullen, negro tenant farmer, ran amuck with a pistol and shotgun after fatally wounding W. T. Sanders, a planter, and battled with posse which drove him through a cane brake for several miles and into a drainage ditch east

of town. The known wounded, all farmers and members of the posse, are: A. L. Manning, 35; Kenneth Blackwood, 35; Luther Hughes, 40; C. A. Hammond, 33; Robert Stringfellow, 40; J. B. Ratliffe, B. A. Williams, Robert Kirsch.

Manning and Blackwood were seriously wounded. Both were given emergency treatment and rushed to hospitals. Manning was sent to Memphis and Blackwood to Greenville.

After killing Sanders, Pullen ran to his home, obtained a shot gun and a supply of ammunition and took to the cane brake. Posse were quickly organized and started in pursuit but three times the negro outshot his pursuers when attempts were made to rush his place of ambush and each time gained another place of vantage when his barricade was rushed.

Tonight a posse of approximately 1,000 men had joined in the pursuit and plans were under way to dump 500 gallons of gasoline into the ditch where Pullen is believed to have taken refuge and set fire to it in an effort to drive him from his place of concealment.

## Negro Returns Fire.

In the maneuver the rescue squad fired at intervals. Pullen returned the fire, but finally was forced to retreat. Against the accused together with Ratliffe and Williams, members of the rescue party were slightly wounded.

Hess, a plantation manager, was killed shortly after Manning was wounded. His body was recovered to night.

Methvin was killed and Hammond and Hughes were wounded in the first

encounter with the negro after he made his way into the cane brake this afternoon. One charge from Pullen's gun struck Methvin in the head, killing him instantly. Hammond and Hughes were struck by bullets fired by the negro but were not dangerously wounded.

## Is Believed Wounded.

At the time Sanders was shot, Manning who accompanied the planter to the cabin, fired on the negro. One of the bullets is believed to have struck Pullen, but inflicted only a minor wound.

Bloodhounds were taken tonight to the point where Pullen is in hiding to aid in the pursuit in the event he should slip through the cordon drawn about the ditch.

## FIRST KILLS FARMER.

GREENWOOD, MISS., Dec. 14.—Two dead and four wounded were the known casualties tonight in a man hunt which began shortly after noon today when Joe Pullen, negro tenant farmer, shot and killed W. T. Sanders, planter, and escaped to a cane brake

near Drew, 25 miles north of Greenwood, armed with a pistol and shotgun, and kept up a running battle with his pursuers at intervals throughout the afternoon.

Posse with the aid of bloodhounds still were on the trail of the fugitive early tonight with prospects that a night battle would be fought before he is taken prisoner or killed.

In addition to Sanders, the two men listed as dead are R. L. Methvin, 55, and a man named Hess. Both were members of the posse which took up the pursuit shortly after Sanders was

ant farmer, is dead from the effects of a score of machine gun bullets after he had battled a posse of several hundred men seven hours, killing three men and wounding nine others, three of them possibly fatally.

The fight ended at 1 o'clock in the morning of last Friday after posse had brought up a machine gun from Clarksdale, Miss., poured a withering fire into a drainage ditch, where Pullen had entrenched himself, and four of them braved his unerring fire to storm the Negro's position.

Pullen was brought here, where he laid in the main street until he died.

five miles from Drew and three miles from the scene of the first killing.

## \$400 REWARD FOR SLAYER

Authorities Seek Negro for Death of Undee Planter.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Dec. 8.—Notice has been served here that \$400 is offered for the arrest and conviction and \$100, statutory reward, for the arrest of Will Epsom, negro, and his wife, wanted by the authorities of Tunica County in connection with the killing on Dec. 1 of E. Anderson, white planter, who was found with his head severed from the body at his home in Dunlee. Epsom and his wife left Dunlee with a small child about 11 years old, who had a birth mark or scar under one eye. Epsom is described as being about five feet seven inches tall, weighs 150 pounds, dark ginger-cake color, 24 or 25 years of age and has very little mustache. His wife is described as at 23 years old, bright color, slender build and hair unusually well kept for a negress.

12-14-23

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CLARKSDALE, Miss., Dec. 8

gro for more than seven hours. The more seriously wounded are J. L. (Bud) Doggett, prominent lumber man and sportsman of Clarksdale, Miss., A. L. Manning and Kenneth Blackwood, both farmers. Doggett was shot in the region of the heart, but physicians said he has a chance to recover. Manning and Blackwood both were shot in the face and neck. Neither is expected to live through the day.

Others wounded were:

Luther Hughes, C. A. Hammond, Bob Stringfellow, J. B. Ratliff, B. A. Williams and Robert Kirsch.

#### Use Machine Gun.

Pullen was captured at one o'clock this morning when four members of the posse surrounded the negro's fire and stormed the drainage ditch in which he had been entrenched for several hours. Headed by Sheriff Newt Cartledge of Clarksdale, the party set up a machine gun which had been brought from Clarksdale and opened fire on the negro's stronghold. Fighting desperately to the end, Pullen returned the fire with pistol and shot gun until he fell, with twenty bullets in his body. He was brought here where his body lay in the main street until he died at 2 o'clock.

The trouble started shortly afternoon yesterday when Sanders on whose place Pullen lived, went to the latter's house to collect a debt. An argument ensued and the negro shot Sanders through the heart killing him instantly.

After shooting his employer, Pullen ran into his cabin, armed himself with a shotgun and fled into the swamp.

#### MARSHAL AND DEPUTY SHOT BY 24 NEGROES

Atlanta

Jackson, Miss., December 22.—Ollie Lancaster, town marshal of Bolton, Miss., seven miles west of here, was shot and a deputy marshal named Hamilton was seriously wounded tonight by three negroes whom the officers were attempting to arrest in connection with the killing of another negro at Edwards, a few miles from Bolton, early tonight.

Shortly after the killing at Edwards the authorities there telephoned Marshal Lancaster to search a train when it arrived at Bolton for suspects. When the train reached there it went into a siding. The officers found four white men near the train caring for a companion with a broken leg. They were arrested and sent to jail at Raymond.

The search was continued for the three negroes. Passing to the other side of the train the marshal and his deputy came upon them. The negroes immediately opened fire, instantly killing the marshal and wounding Hamilton. They escaped.

A posse was quickly organized and search for the negroes began. Bloodhounds are on the way to the scene from Bolton.

## 3 KILLED, 8 ARE SHOT WHEN NEGRO CROPPER

## RUNS AMUCK AT DREW

Commercial

Black Slays Employer and Ambushes Posse,

Appeal

SURROUNDED IN SWAMP

Memphis,

Shoots Down Ten Pursuers

From Hiding

12-15-23

HEROIC RESCUES MADE

Incensed Because Planter Asks Debt Payment, Joe Pullen, Farm Hand, Uses Two Pistols to Kill Him—Stalks Posse for Two Encounters, and, Wounded by Employer's Companion at First, Escapes Other Injuries During Sortie.

DREW, Miss., Dec. 14.—Three prominent Sunflower County planters met instant death and eight others were wounded—two probably fatally—today when Joe Pullen, 40, negro cropper on the plantation of W. T. Sanders, three miles southeast of Drew, ran amuck with pistol and pumpgun. After slaying his employer and receiving wounds in the side and leg, the black three times outshot searching parties at pointblank range in as many swampy places, dealing death with his weapon from ambush.

Early this morning, after a frantic chase covering nine hours, an orderly posse of nearly 1,000 men surrounded the negro in a four-foot drainage ditch about five miles northeast of this city, three miles from the scene of the first killing and were preparing to pour 500 gallons of gasoline in the shallow stream to burn out the desperado and also to serve as a light for use of the rescuers in case the fugitive attempts to escape.

The known dead:

W. T. SANDERS, 45, the negro's employer, shot in heart.

R. L. METHVIN, 55, posseman, head blown off.

E. O. HESS, 50, posseman, shot in forehead.

The wounded:

A. L. MANNING, 35, posseman, shot in the face and neck, expected to die before morning.

KENNETH BLACKWOOD, 35, posseman, shot in face and neck, may die.

LUTHER HUGHES, 40, posseman, left eye shot out.

C. A. HAMMOND, 33, posseman, birdshot in face and neck.

BOB STRINGFELLOW, posseman, shot in neck and side.

J. B. RATLIFF, posseman, shot in face and neck.

B. A. WILLIAMS, posseman, shot in neck.

BOB KIRSCH, posseman, flesh wound in leg.

#### Two Sent to Hospitals.

Blackwood was given emergency treatment at the Atkinson drug store here and rushed to Memphis tonight on the 7:30 o'clock train. Manning, unconscious from severe wounds in the face and neck, and his condition aggravated by three hours' exposure to the cold, was believed dying tonight at 7 o'clock, when he was placed in an automobile and started for Greenwood hospital.

Manning, shot down from ambush by the desperate negro, and left in a ditch when his comrades were forced to retreat after one was killed and four others wounded, was rescued tonight at 8 o'clock from beneath the very guns of the negro by a squad of 10 possemen, who heroically advanced in the darkness and shot it out with the negro who stood guard near Manning hoping to lure others into the ambush.

In this maneuver, the rescue squad made its way up the ditch, firing ahead in the darkness at intervals. They took care to shoot above the level of the prostrate body. Suddenly, the negro opened fire on the rescuers, but in the face of the barrage that greeted him in return, he retreated. Ratliff and Williams, members of the squad, received slight wounds but they got Manning and unexpectedly stumbled upon the inert body of E. O. Hess, manager of the Swope plantation, who had been shot over the eye with a pistol and died instantly in the same counter at 6:50 o'clock which probably will claim Manning's life, too. He lay 30 feet away from Manning, who was rendered unconscious when shot. Hess had been missed from the ranks of the posse, but was thought to be safe until his body was found.

The entire section is armed to the teeth and the comparatively few of the officers are helpless in dealing with the gigantic, determined mob.

Sanders, the negro's employer, died instantly at the hands of the negro and Methvin's life was snuffed out as quickly when a charge from the negro's shotgun took away his head before he knew of the black's presence nearby. Sanders, the first victim, was shot through the heart when, accompanied by J. D. Manning, another former, he approached Pullen for collection of a crop debt.

#### Opens Fire Without Warning.

They came upon Pullen near the latter's cabin, about a mile from plantation headquarters. The negro was standing defiantly with both hands in his pockets, Manning declares. When the demand was made that he remove his hands the negro complied, but he held a pistol in each one and opened fire without a word. Sanders fell at the first shot. Manning returned the fire but the negro ran, leaving a trail of blood.

While Manning was attending the fallen planter the negro ran into his cabin, seized his shotgun and fled toward a ditch on the adjoining plantation. The news spread quickly at

this section of the country and within an hour more than 100 Springs farm in charge of his wife formed a posse and separated and son, Monroe, who have been conducting it since. Monroe and Mrs. Sanders left Crystal Springs today in an automobile for this city to bring back the body. They visited his mother's cabin on the Wade plantation, told her he was shot in the leg and in the side and "wanted to get away quick."

Just as a squad of four were stand-

ing on the levee on Powell's Bayou, on Brooks' plantation, the negro sud-

denly opened fire with his pumpgun

at 7 o'clock tonight.

The possemen were unaware of his proximity.

R. L. Methvin didn't know what

struck him. The first charge carried

away the top of his head and he died

in the shot. The negro swung his

shotgun with deadly aim at Atkinson

Hammond and Hughes the

other members of the party. Ham-

mond got a portion of a charge in his

face and neck, but was not danger-

ously hurt. None of this party saw

the black until an hour later when

returning with reinforcements to get

Methvin's body they found the negro

track in the ditch.

Negro Disappears in Ditch.

Commercial Appeal

Hughes, standing 10 feet further on,

was prevented from firing because

Hammond stood between him and the

negro. The black scampered up the

ditch and disappeared while Hughes

attended his two fallen comrades.

With the negro's approximate position located, the possemen from other sections moved over toward the Brooks' place and began their search, which led onto the adjoining place belonging to Max Kaplan. Gradually the negro was working northward, and undoubtedly he took to ambush again while another party of five possemen literally walked into the muzzle of his murderous weapon.

Details of this encounter, which happened shortly before dusk, and which resulted in wounds to every member of the party, including Manning, have been mixed by excited possemen coming into this city. The chronological account has not been obtained. Kenneth Blackwood, a member of this squad, seriously injured, was brought here tonight for emergency treatment and then carried to a Greenwood hospital.

Hess was shot down in this encounter. His comrades declare it was evident he was killed outright.

In addition, Luther Hughes and Bob Kersh were badly hurt. The four wounded members of this ill-fated squad retreated without hitting the negro, but were unable to succor Manning.

"He's Killed 'Em All." 12-16-23

Blackwood is said to be more seriously hurt. When he reached Atkinson's drug store here tonight, he was too excited to give a coherent account of the hunt.

"He's killed 'em all! He's killed 'em all!" he cried continually while physicians administered opiates.

The negro is believed to have chosen the swamp where this ambush occurred to make his stand, and the possemen are determined he will not leave the spot. The cordon was placed around the slough within an hour after the last encounter, and by that time darkness had settled over the scene.

Little is known of the negro here, except that during his year of employment on the Sanders place he has never given any trouble before. He has a father in Glendora, Miss.

Virtually all of Central and Northern Mississippi has been aroused by the negro's actions. All of the victims are widely known throughout these two sections of the state.

Both Sanders and Methvin came to Drew two or three years ago from Crystal Springs, where they were prominently connected. Sanders was regarded as one of the best truck gardeners in Copiah County. When he

Killings—1923.

Missouri.

# SAYS GIRL WAS SLAIN BY NEGRO

Houston Post

11-11-23

Associated Press Report.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 10.—Marie W. Bauers, 17 years old, a telephone operator, was shot and killed in an alley here tonight when she resisted an attempted attack by a negro, who forced her escort, Clarence Level, 19, to remain near the entrance of the alley, according to a story Level told police.

Level said he and Miss Bauers were en route home from a picture show, when the negro accosted them and compelled the girl to enter the alley. When she resisted the negro's advances, police said Level told them, the negro shot her in the abdomen. Level said, according to authorities, that he attempted to aid the girl when he heard her scream, but the negro had fired the shot and fled before he could reach her.

Killings - 1923.

New York.

# NEGRO AND WHITE MAN IMPLICATED IN DEATH OF WHITE GIRL IN N. Y.

Sarsdale, N. Y., July 7.—Suspicion today fastened upon a ragged, penniless tramp and a negro with a bloody purse as authorities scoured the countryside for the murderer of Dorothy Kaufman, governess from the Mennonite colony in Weiser, Md., who was hacked to death in the Sarsdale home of Magruder Craighead last Tuesday.

The tramp, riding a bus between White Plains and Dobbs Ferry, boasted to the driver that he was a "slasher" and recently had cut up a state trooper in a knife battle.

The driver told the police about it and to them the wayfarer, giving the name of Anthony ("Ton") Amundsen, admitted he was homeless, out of work and had slept under the stars within a mile of the Craighead home the night of the murder.

LED to the little room where the governess was slain, he coolly surveyed the place, handled the blood-stained butcher knife and stoutly denied all knowledge of the crime. Later he broke down and wept, but did not reveal anything. Detectives were not satisfied with the tramp's story, saying he contradicted himself several times. He was taken to jail for further investigation as a suspected person.

The negro was "Charlie," employed as a handymen by Howard F. R. Mulligan, a New York attorney, who lives near the Craighead home.

"Charlie" was hired Wednesday morning. Mr. Mulligan told detectives He said the negro showed him a blood-stained purse, explaining it had belonged to a brother killed in the war.

The negro was grilled for several hours at the Mulligan home, but his questioners did not reveal what they had learned.

It was disclosed by an autopsy before the body was taken to the girl's former home for burial that she had not been assaulted. Nor had she been robbed, for articles of value were scattered about her body undisturbed.

The "jealous suitor" theory, which has been advanced, is losing plausibil-

, the police said.

Killings - 1923

North Carolina.

# FEARS LYNCHING IF FEET IN TREE, TAKEN TO NORTH C. HEAD IN WATER

Sutton Held for North

Carolina Authorities on

Killing Charge

Afro-American

Fearing that he will be lynched if sent back to North Carolina where according to his confession, he shot and killed John Sutton, a white farmer of Kingston, N. C., following an altercation, James Miller will fight efforts to take him back. Miller is being held at the Northeastern Police Station awaiting the action of the North Carolina authorities. He was arrested Wednesday on description sent out and according to the police confessed having killed Sutton.

According to his alleged story, one night in the latter part of last September while driving a wagon on a lonely road, he was halted by Sutton and another white man known to him as "Cy", who were in an automobile. Sutton accused him of stealing corn and attempted to hold him while "Cy" went for an officer.

In an altercation which followed, he stated that a fight ensued and he shot Sutton. He made his escape and finally came to Baltimore.

## NO TRACE FOUND OF NEGRO SLAYER

Mount Holly, N. C., July 1.—All is quiet here tonight, following the killing last night of Tom Fields of Thrift, by an unidentified man believed by the police to be a negro known as Brad Gordon. Fields, two women and a man were accosted on the public road by Fields' slayer and when an altercation occurred Fields was shot to death. A posse of fifteen or twenty officers and citizens of Mecklenburg and Gaston counties continued their search for the slayer today, but no trace of him was found.

News of the killing aroused intense excitement here, where a mob of several hundred men formed last night and officers had feared trouble if the slayer was apprehended.

Afro-American  
Well-Known North Caro-

linian A Victim

Baltimore, Md.  
White Gunman

Mt. Airy, N. C., Aug. 16.—Henry Joyce, of Stokes County, was found hanging, his feet caught in the branches of a scrub oak, and his head completely immersed in a small creek.

It was first thought that Joyce had been drowned, the victim of a mob, but investigation showed that he had been shot, and in falling his feet had caught in the brush suspending the body over the water, the head being submerged.

Joyce was the alleged victim of a rifle bullet fired by Willis Dick Sisk, a white gunman and bootlegger. The bullet fired from behind entered the neck, severed the jugular vein as it ranged downward coming out through the left breast, causing instant death.

Authorities say it is impossible for them to try to find any trace of Sisk, adding that he has a reputation as a desperate man.

## WHITE MAN KILLS NEGRO WITH AUTO WRENCH—FREED

The Freeman  
GOLDSBORO, N. C., Aug. 23.—(Preston News Service)—During an

alleged argument last Tuesday after noon between John Grantham, aged 50 years and R. E. Hood, aged 23, white

years and R. E. Hood, aged 23, white

when an altercation occurred Fields Grantham was struck over the head with an auto wrench by the whit

man and died at the Goldshore hospit

tal a few hours later. 8-23-23

struck over the head with an auto wrench by the white man and died at the Goldsboro hospital a few hours later.

Hood claims that he was compelled to defend himself against the Negro who was pursuing him with a knife and that he struck Grantham with the wrench in self defense. There were no witnesses to the affair and the coroner rendered a verdict of justifiable homicide, which automatically released the white man from custody.

DEC 3 - 1923

# NEGROES HELD FOR HOMICIDE

## Sheriff and Posse Try to Find Clue to Brutal Union Murder.

Monroe, Dec. 3.—With two Union county negroes, Rance McCauley and Jason Walker, held in jail here

under suspicion in connection with the brutal murder of Butler Funderburk, 55, Union county merchant found dead in his little store four miles from Monroe Saturday morning, Sheriff Clifford Fowler and a posse today continued a wide search in an effort to unravel the mystery surrounding the crime.

The two negroes, arrested Sunday afternoon when they failed to give a satisfactory statement of their whereabouts at the time of the murder, stoutly maintain their innocence and contend that they will be able to prove an alibi.

Hood claims that he was compelled to defend himself against the Negro when the coroner's jury re-assembles to complete an investigation begun Saturday. B. M. Abernethy is the coroner.

The murder was one of the most brutal ever perpetrated in this country. Callers at the store Saturday morning found Funderburk, a bachelor who lived alone in the rear of the building under the counter with his skull fractured in five places and his pockets turned wrong side out. Near the body were found a blood-stained monkey-wrench, a broken chair and a walking stick. The wrench was stained with blood and bore wisps of gray hair, according to the officer.

Funderburk, it was said, was in the habit of keeping a considerable sum of money near the end of the week and officers are working on the theory that robbery was the motive for the crime.

OKlahoma.

Killings-1923

## OFFICERS KILL FLEEING NEGRO

*Houston Post*

Associated Press Report.

MUSKOGEE, Okla., Jan. 6.—William (Bodie) Ragsdale, wealthy Muskogee negro and proprietor of a local undertaking establishment, was shot and killed this afternoon when he attempted to escape while being taken to Sapulpa by officers on a charge of murder in connection with the killing of a policeman and the wounding of four others there last week.

Ragsdale was arrested here last night and held in the city jail, being secretly removed this morning in the hope of getting him to Sapulpa without the public there learning of the arrest. At Beggs, in Okmulgee county he leaped from the automobile in which he was being transferred and was felled by a Sapulpa officer's bullet.

Ragsdale, his friends said here, was in Muskogee the night of the Sapulpa ambuscade and if he had been in Sapulpa during the past few weeks it was in connection with the reputed large estate of his mother-in-law, who was killed in an automobile accident here a fortnight ago.

## Two Deaths Due To Unwritten Law Against Negroes

Marlow, Okla., December 18.—Marlow's unwritten law, exemplified by prominent public signs bearing the command "Negro, don't let the sun go down on you here," caused the death last night of W. Birch, prominent hotel owner, and the probable fatal wounding of the first negro who has stayed here more than a day in years.

They were victims of a mob of more than fifteen men, who went to the hotel where the negro had been employed three days ago as a porter, and shot them down when Birch attempted to persuade them to desist from their threats to lynch the negro.

Marlow, one of several towns in Oklahoma which has not allowed negroes to settle in their vicinity, for years has abided by the custom of permitting no member of the race to remain here after nightfall.

Last Saturday Birch brought Robert Joinigan, the negro, here to serve as a porter in his hotel. A few hours later he received an anonymous note warning him to dismiss the porter at once and drive him from the city.

Birch ignored the letter.

The mob went to the hotel early last evening, its members calling loudly for the negro and announcing their intention of hanging him on the spot. The hotel proprietor, with

Joinigan at his side, hurried into the lobby to intercede, but was shot dead before he could speak. The negro also fell, critically wounded.

Their assailants fled.

Mrs. Birch, who witnessed the shooting, said she thought she recognized the man who killed her husband, but authorities early today said they had no clues as to the identity of members of the mob. They were not masked.

Killings - 1923

South Carolina.

# NEGRO IS HELD AS MURDER SUSPECT

*Atlanta Georgian*  
with a heavy iron instrument supposedly by Victor Dillard, a negro ice wagon driver. The young man's skull was fractured and his cheek bone broken. Little hope is entertained for his recovery. The negro is in jail here.  
2-13-23

ABBEVILLE, S. C., Feb. 12.—Lee Wright, negro, was arrested and brought to the Abbeville County jail Saturday, charged with aiding and abetting Henry Klugh, Jr., in the murder of William Anderson, who was shot and killed Tuesday, as he stepped from the back door of his father's house where he was visiting.

Wright was arrested on a warrant sworn out in Abbeville. He lives about half a mile from the Anderson home, which was the old John Henry Klugh place, and a half or three-quarters of a mile from the Henry Klugh home. When arrested Wright claimed he knew nothing about the affair.

After the killing of Anderson last Tuesday, four empty shells were found near the outhouse from the side of which the fatal shots were fired. It is claimed Wright was the only one in the community owning a Winchester rifle such as was used, and when the officers went to Wright's house for it he said: "Dar it is. It ain't been out of the house."

The officers found the rifle in a case, unloaded. The butt had traces of mud on it and the shells fitted. Wright was arrested and placed in jail.

**THERE ARE SOME HARDHEADED**

*Birmingham Reporter*  
WHITE MEN  
By The Associated Negro Press)

Columbia, S. C., Aug. 28.—Victor Dillard, a young Negro truck driver proved last week that a white man's head is quite as hard as the head of a Negro. During an altercation with one J. J. Connelly, a white foreman, he hit Connelly on the head with a heavy iron instrument, probably a crowbar, and simply cracked the white man's skull. However, Connelly is not expected to live.

**NEGRO CRACKS SKULL  
OF PAVING FOREMAN**

*The Constitution*  
Columbia, S. C., August 19.—J. J. Connelly, 20 years old, of Americus, Ga., construction foreman for the Southern Construction and Paving company, which is laying streets at Union, S. C., was struck in the head

Killings - 1923

## NEGRO IS KILLED BY OFFICERS NEAR SCENE OF CRIME

Houston Post  
Houston, Tex.

Associated Press Report.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Mar. 10.—Louis Douglas, negro desperado, who shot and seriously wounded five persons who were attending a death watch at Spencer, Van Buren county, Thursday morning, was shot to death at the home of a tenant on the property of Sam Haston, one of the victims, by armed deputies this afternoon at 5:30 o'clock. 3-11-23

The negro's death ended a two-day chase with bloodhounds, which wound up within 100 yards of the place where he attempted to wipe out an entire family because he had been caught stealing from a corn crib.

Last night Douglas entered the home of a white man named Manus and demanded food. He was still armed with the shotgun with which the five persons were shot. Manus fed him.

Douglas asked Manus to fix it up with the Hastons. He said he would come back again tonight for the answer.

Deputies were notified and secreted themselves in the house. The negro knocked on the door at 5:30 o'clock. He entered the room still carrying his shotgun. He was riddled with bullets before he could move the gun to his shoulder.

The shooting of the fugitive was the climax to one of the most brutal tragedies in the annals of the State, two men and two women being shot down as they watched beside the bedside of a dying woman at the home of Sam Haston, brother of Tennessee's secretary of state. The man chase which followed led through two counties, but ended when the negro gave his pursuers the slip and returned to the scene of the crime.

## SEEK NEGRO SUSPECT IN HIGHLAND MURDER

Wounded Girl Has Fighting Chance to Recover.

## SPENCER FUNERAL TODAY

Police Take Negro and Load of Ammunition Similar to That Used in Three Slayings—Reward Increased to \$300.

A second negro suspect was arrested by police early last night and four revolvers seized at a negro house nearby. With the revolvers a supply of .25 caliber steel tipped bullets similar to those used in the Tucker-Waller and Spencer murders was found.

Speculation, theory—and suspense! Police and county authorities admitted last night that they were just a little nearer to the capture of the man who killed Spencer. A. L. Johnson, Store manager, and shot Miss Laura Wheaton Johnson, Maury School teacher, on Highland Street near the N. C. & St. L. Railway tracks, early Thursday, than they did when Miss Johnson was found covered with blood at the entrance to the driveway of F. Faehrmann's home.

However, they are continuing their search for a certain negro prospect.

There were few developments yesterday and they threw little light on the actual crime.

Inspector of Detectives W. T. Griffin announced yesterday after a short interview with Miss Johnson at the

Baptist Memorial Hospital that the

girl stated that she was not sure that the man who attacked her and W. "Obe" Spencer was a negro. Miss

Johnson told Inspector Griffin that at the time she was driving the automobile, but aside from these minor details the story that she told was essentially the same as that she related to Detective Sergeants Heckle, Crumby and York at the Baptist Me-

morial Hospital soon after the tragedy. Miss Johnson reiterated her assertions that a shot was fired into the coupe

from behind, and that after Spencer slumped down in his seat their assailant, apparently a tall negro, wearing

a cap, got in the car and in response to her pleading drove the Ford road-

ster for a short distance north on

Highland. Then the man snatching

her wrist watch from her arm, got

out of the car and went east across a field. Miss Johnson staggered up the road towards the Faehrmann home.

Physicians say that there was little change in Miss Johnson's condition yesterday and that the crisis apparently has not been passed. Tetanus is feared by the doctors in charge of the case.

### Murders Were Alike.

All officials working on the murder of Spencer and the shooting of Miss Johnson are firm in their belief that when the case is cleared up that the Waller-Tucker murder will also be solved.

Aside from the fact that a .25 caliber automatic revolver was used in both cases, there are other physical facts that make the two mysteries almost identical. The night of the Waller-Tucker murder was dark and rainy, as was Thursday night. Then there was the shot fired through the back of both automobiles, the angle and elevation being almost the same, and a lonely spot on the road, lined with trees was the scene of both attacks.

So far there has been no injection of a "love" theory into the murder of Spencer and the wounding of his companion, according to Inspector W. T. Griffin.

"We are investigating all clues, of course," said Inspector Griffin last night. "But at present my men and the sheriff's forces are firm in the belief that the three killings, the two at Berclair, and the one on Highland Street, are the result of the activities of a negro brute, or a white man disguised as a negro. In the Tucker-Waller murders a large part of our investigation proceeded on the theory that love, revenge or jealousy might lie behind the tragedy, but so far these elements have had scant consideration from us in this case."

Inspector Griffin seemed hopeful last night that some tangible clue would come to light in a short time. "There is one arrest that we want to make," he said. "It might be a white man and it might be a negro. When that arrest is made we will know where we stand and whether any progress has been made."

### \$300 IN REWARDS OFFERED.

One outcome of the latest tragedy may be the establishment of a county motorcycle force to patrol roads in the vicinity of Memphis. No definite steps have been made as yet but county officials are said to favor the plan. It would not only serve as a protection to motorists but will check indiscriminate stopping by automobiles at lonely spots.

The reward offered for the slayer of Spencer reached \$300 yesterday when Malcolm Barboro, president of A. S. Barboro & Co., added \$100 to the \$200 already outstanding. An appeal will be made to Governor Peay to add a substantial sum on behalf of the state.

A thing that is hampering the officers in their work is the vague description of the murderer of Spencer, Duncan Waller and Mrs. Ruth McElwain Tucker were dead when found, their lips forever sealed. Spencer, too, was killed almost instantly and Miss Johnson has been able to supplement little to her statement that the man was apparently a negro, tall and wearing a cap.

The funeral of W. O. Spencer will be held this morning at 8:30 o'clock from the funeral parlors of Collins-Sturla undertakers. High requiem mass will be celebrated at St. Brigid's Church at 9 o'clock. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery.

Spencer is survived by his parents who live at 633 Pearce, one brother, Warren Spencer, and five sisters.

Attaches at Collins-Sturla stated last night that Spencer had been shot five times, once in the right arm, once under the right armpit, twice in the neck and once in the chin.

The shot that struck Miss Johnson also penetrated her neck. Her mother, Mrs. M. T. Johnson, 3524 Summer Avenue, is constantly at her daughter's bedside.

Additional detectives augmenting the regular night force were on duty last night and police officials stated that arrests of suspects were imminent.

### NEGROES SLAY SHERIFF

#### SEEKS FUGITIVE BOOTLEGGER WHO SHOT OFFICER, AFTER ARREST

GRAND JUNCTION, TENN., May 31.—Two negroes, who early today shot to the Arkansas side of the Mississippi river in the possibility that he and instantly killed George Holder, deputy sheriff, were still at large early could identify the wrecked car. When tonight, although officers with bloodhounds had followed a trail which led him with murder was served. He was ordered held without bond pending preliminary hearing.

Holder had arrested the two negroes, on bootlegging charges and their pistol attack on him was unexpected.

Tennessee

## NEGRO KILLED IN GUN BATTLE WITH OFFICER

*Memphis Appeal*  
John Bridges Slain by Deputy Sheriff Beaty,  
Memphis, Tenn.

## MANNING WHO WAS SHOT BY NEGRO REPORTED DYING

### Twelfth Victim of Pullen's Gun Also in Critical Condition

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 15.—Reports received here tonight from Greenville, Miss., stated that A. L. Manning, one of nine members of a posse wounded late yesterday in a gun battle with Joe Pullen, negro tenant farmer near Drew, Miss., was dying at the hospital to which he was taken last night. Manning was shot in the face and head and suffered severely from exposure before he was rescued by fellow members of the posse.

Kenneth Blackwood who was brought to a local hospital early today was reported tonight to be "resting well," although physicians said his condition was serious. Blackwood was shot in the neck and face.

Physicians attending J. L. (Bud) Doggett, who is a prominent lumberman, said he had a "fighting chance" to recover. A bullet from the negro's pistol pierced Doggett's liver. His condition was described as critical.

"We had nothing to destroy the still man and sportsman of Clarksdale, was with, and Willis waited with the outfit while I went for an ax," said Beaty, a member of the machine gun squad which finally captured Pullen after I took the white man to jail and got a pick. On my way back I saw a negro coming toward me in the Driving Park. He had two packages under guns.

"We had nothing to destroy the still man and sportsman of Clarksdale, was with, and Willis waited with the outfit while I went for an ax," said Beaty, a member of the machine gun squad which finally captured Pullen after I took the white man to jail and got a pick. On my way back I saw a negro coming toward me in the Driving Park. He had two packages under guns.

Spencer was captured at one o'clock under arrest and went ahead. Just before we got to Wolf River the negro whirled with a gun in his hand and shot once at me. I shot and hit him in the heart. The pistol that the negro was carrying must have been in his overalls as he drew his hand from them when he swung around with the gun in his hand."

Bridges lived at 72 Jones Avenue.

## LUMBER MAN KILLED IN NEGRO MURDER

*Houston Post*  
Associated Press Report.

MEMPHIS, Aug. 27.—B. H. Sawyer, Memphis lumber man, was arrested today on a charge of murder when he went to Marion, Ark., in company with Memphis detectives ostensibly to identify an automobile which was wrecked and left lying near the roadway a short distance from Marion after it is said to have struck two negroes early Sunday. One of the negroes died of his injuries.

Sawyer had reported that his automobile had been stolen and was taken to the Arkansas side of the Mississippi river in the possibility that he and instantly killed George Holder, deputy sheriff, were still at large early could identify the wrecked car. When tonight, although officers with bloodhounds had followed a trail which led him with murder was served. He was ordered held without bond pending preliminary hearing.

Marion authorities charge him with having run down the negroes.

Killings—1923.

Texas.

## ARREST OF NEGRO HERE MAY SOLVE BEAUMONT CASE

shot in the face by Coker, who used a shotgun. 13-29-23.

The wounded duellists are said to have declared that the fight involved no one else, but this is not believed by the police investigating the trouble. From their inquiry they are convinced that there were other participants.

Houston  
Long Search for Slayer of  
Houston Girl Believed

Ended

Houston  
Tex.

A countrywide search for the slayer of 16-year-old Bessie Carl and T. O. Rial, 22, of Beaumont, slain near that city September 4, was believed by Houston police to be ended with the arrest here Saturday of a negro who has been sought since a short time after the bodies of the slain couple were found. Although the negro denies knowledge of the double crime Houston police declare their belief that he is able to shed material light upon it. He was arrested downtown by Detectives Tice Wilkins and George Peyton on a description sent from Beaumont.

He will be detained here pending the arrival of officers from Beaumont. His picture and Bertillon measurement, which were dispatched to Beaumont Saturday afternoon, reveal that he has served two terms in penitentiaries. At one time he was confined in an insane asylum.

Miss Carl and Young Rial were slain on the Concord road about four miles from Beaumont. Their bodies were found several days later lying in a marsh some distance from Rial's automobile, in which the two had been riding. Beaumont authorities, after viewing the bodies, deduced that the double killing was the work of a fiend. 9-10-23

A manhunt through neighboring counties led to the arrest of several negroes, two white women and one white man, several of whom are under suspicion now. Two days ago Beaumont authorities apprehended a negro youth who claimed knowledge of the slayer's identity. His revelations were kept secret by police. Whether or not his statements led to the arrest Saturday was not revealed by Houston authorities.

## FARM TENANT IN FIGHT FOR His Right to Share Crops

Texarkana, Texas, Dec. 21.—As a result of a gun duel fought at a farmhouse on the Grover Wason farm, 12 miles northwest of here, J. B. Coker, foreman on the farm, and Cyrus Middleton, a tenant, are confined in a hospital seriously wounded. Coker was shot three times and beaten over the head with a revolver by Middleton, who was

Killings — 1923

## NEGRO DENIES PART IN CRIMES

*Houston Post*

WACO, Texas, Feb. 8.—"God being my witness, I didn't kill them people."

Breaking his silence for the first time since he went on a hunger strike following his arrest for four murders, Roy Mitchell, alleged "black terror," half whispered that denial to officers in his cell here today. *2-9-23*

Nearing death from self-starvation, the negro broke down and succumbed to the temptation of food placed before him. When he started eating, jail authorities were hardly able to stop him. Mitchell is charged with the brutal murder of Mrs. Ethel Jacobs Denecamp, 21, and her companion, W. E. Holt, 45, on the Springfield road near here on the night of January 19; with the slaying of Grady Skipworth, at Lovers' Leap, near Waco, and throwing his body over that picturesque cliff; and with the killing of W. P. Driskill, prominent cotton man, who was slain with an ax as he stood in his back yard last May.

Mitchell was brought here from Hillsboro, where he had been held for safe keeping, when officers found that it would be necessary to force him to take nourishment in order to keep him from dying.

## WACO IS QUIET AFTER NEGRO ADMITS KILLING

*Commercial Appeal*  
*Memphis, Tenn.*  
County Jail, However, Continues Under Guard.

*2-11-23*

WACO, Texas, Feb. 10.—Although there was no demonstration last night indicating possible mob action against Roy Mitchell, negro, who county authorities say has signed written confessions to five murders in this county during the past year, the county jail continued under guard today. Texas Rangers, ordered here by Gov. Neff, will not come, according to Sheriff Leslie Stegall, who said he had countermanded his request for state officers, owing to the continued quiet situation.

No court action is expected against Mitchell until March 5, when the regular grand jury convenes. He spent a quiet night in his cell.

In the meantime, County Attorney C. S. Farmer said he would continue his investigation into the slaying at Concord, near here, in February, 1922, of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Barker, and a 12-year-old boy, Homer Turk. Mitchell says he committed this crime, according to Mr. Farmer, but this alleged admission was not put in writing because the prosecutor said he gave it little credence owing to the fact that it was made after a trying ordeal in which the negro detailed the five murders to which he signed separate confessions. Two other negroes, whose conviction for the Concord murders are now on appeal, confessed the crimes, after their arrest, but re-

pudiated the confessions at their trials, saying they signed the statements under threats of violence.

## FARMER IS KILLED; NEGRO ESCAPES

*Houston Post*

HILLSBORO, Texas, March 14.—

Sheriff's posse and many citizens are searching for Leroy Harris, negro farm hand who, it is charged, shot and killed Wylie C. Smithson, a farmer, near here late Tuesday. Bloodhounds are said to have lost the trail. *3/15/23*

The cause of the trouble is not known beyond the fact that Smithson upbraided Harris at noon for failure to bring seed corn to a field for planting. Four bullets struck Smithson, three after he had dropped to the ground, according to officers.

## NEGRO DENIES CONFESSING

*Declarer Admission of Five Murders*

*Forced by Brutality.*

WACO, Texas, March 17.—Roy Mitchell, negro, on trial charged with the murder of Otto Lange, to which he recently signed a confession, and admitted four other murders at or near Waco during the last year, today repudiated the admission. Mitchell testified he had been mistreated in Hill County jail and that he made the confessions after County Attorney C. S. Farmer had promised him that he would "not hang" if he would "come clean" and clear up the crimes.

Mitchell testified that County Attorney Farmer, Sheriff Stegall, and Deputy Sheriff Jackson visited him in jail at Hillsboro, that a physician was summoned and asked to examine him to ascertain if he was crazy. He said water was thrown in his face, pins were stuck in him, burning matches were applied and his hair jerked out. Mitchell testified that on one occasion he was weak and fell out of a chair and that the Hill County jailor kicked him on the nose, making the wound which caused the scar still on his nose.

Testifying as to his actions in the Hill County jail and his refusal to eat, Mitchell said he knew he was in great trouble. He resorted to prayer, he said, and did not get any results. He then decided to fast and pray and if he acted crazy, he did not know it. Mitchell testified that on one visit to him at the jail, County Attorney Farmer told him of the evidence he had collected and told him it was at their barbecue and reunion here to plenty to hang him. Defendant said day, pledged himself to do all in his power to end "tar and feather parties" he told the county attorney maybe power to end "tar and feather parties" they did have enough evidence but it and mob violence in Texas.

He was not true, and if he did have all the evidence needed why did he want a confession. He swore the county attorney told him the grand jury in the name of the law demands he would meet on March 5, that he would apprehension and conviction of the would be indicted by March 7, and would be murderer of Otto Lange.

Acting Governor Davidson spent several hours this morning in a personal investigation into the shooting on July 2, in which Lange, a farmer living near here, met death in a fight with three men whom he refused to accompany in their automobile.

Mr. Davidson talked with Mrs. Lange, widow of the slain man, and with his aged mother, who also was in the home at the time of the shooting. Later he conferred with county officers, and several prominent citizens.

Acting Governor Davidson was introduced at the barbecue by former County Judge Warren Hilliard. The subject of his address was "The Su-

Texas

# Net Closing Around Somerville Slayers, Davidson Declares

Acting Governor in Houston Following Law Enforcement Speech at Burleson County Barbecue; Says Every Case of Violence in State Must Be Sifted to Bottom; Hundreds Attend Guard Barbecue

Evidence rapidly is being completed which will result in the arrest of the men responsible for the death of Otto Lange July 2 at his home near Somerville, Acting Governor T. W. Davidson declared Friday night. He arrived from Somerville at 4 p. m. and left at 11 p. m. for Austin.

Acting Governor Davidson would not discuss the nature of the evidence upon which he depends for the solution of the Lange slaying mystery, nor would he make any prediction as to the time which will elapse before the arrests are effected.

Discussing the speech he delivered Friday afternoon at the Company H, 143rd infantry barbecue at Somerville, the executive said a campaign such as he outlined "premacy of the Law." It follows, in

meant that each individual case of part: "In accepting your invitation, I come lawlessness the whole State over not in a spirit of partisanship but solely as your acting governor at this time. If there are those who feel that I am guilty persons brought to justice. He said that then, and then here for abusing any man, then be only, would the government of the State and its officers be living up to the spirit and letter of the law.

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## Pledges End to Tar And Feather Parties

*Houston Post Special*

SOMERVILLE, Texas, July 13.—Declaring that he would not hesitate to "call a spade a spade," Acting Governor T. W. Davidson, speaking at the invitation of members of company H, 143rd infantry, Texas National Guard, Farmer told him of the evidence he had collected and told him it was at their barbecue and reunion here to plenty to hang him. Defendant said day, pledged himself to do all in his power to end "tar and feather parties"

he told the county attorney maybe power to end "tar and feather parties" they did have enough evidence but it and mob violence in Texas. "I want to be fair and open-minded," he asserted, "but fair- was not true, and if he did have all the evidence needed why did he want a confession. He swore the county attorney told him the grand jury in the name of the law demands he would meet on March 5, that he would apprehension and conviction of the would be indicted by March 7, and would be murderer of Otto Lange."

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Acting Governor Davidson was introduced at the barbecue by former County Judge Warren Hilliard. The subject of his address was "The Su-

life and property that the wisdom and ingenuity of the human mind has produced."

Jury Trial a Right.

"They guarantee to every man a trial by a jury of his peers. They guarantee to every man the right to be confronted by his accusers. They guarantee to every man the right to the writ of habeas corpus. They guarantee that no man shall be deprived of life or property without due process of law."

Mr. Davidson said that the law of procedure is many times more important than a substantive law itself.

"You may have among your people," he said, "lodges and organizations with a code of ethics, morals and laws as beautiful as the Beatitudes of the Bible, and it is possible for that same organization to have code of procedure as dangerous and rotten as hades. Too many feel that when a crook has received his dues it is immaterial by what process it came. Too many feel and think that when a murderer meets his death it is immaterial about the agency. Too many have felt that when a corrupt official is routed from office and out of power that it is immaterial as to the course employed for the ultimate good. One of the things I especially want to impress on you is the fact that the procedure is for the ultimate good and for the weal or woe of the whole people and in many instances vastly more important than the immediate application of justice."

Reviews Texas History.

The acting governor reviewed the history of Texas and said that at one time in some five counties of the State well meaning citizens organized themselves in a band of night riders to rid the country of criminals and thieves and in this organization he said were ministers of the gospel and many wealthy men of the county.

"In order to carry their purposes into effect," he said, "they went not to the courts but assembled in the forests and there every man who had an enemy or knew a thief turned in his victim. Citizens of the very highest type were arrested and dragged into this forest court. After some had been killed and many flogged, a rival organization arose.

"Robert H. Potter, secretary of the navy of the republic of Texas; Peter Wetstone of Marshall, and many others, including General Lane, were victims of these mobs and organized.

"Otto Lange was shot down in his own home in the arms of his child who was also wounded and a pistol held in the face of his mother, done by a band of unidentified masked men. Who did it no one seems to know." *7-14-23*

A few months before Ed Thurber, a substantial citizen of your county, was shot on the streets of one of your towns by a band of masked men. Who they were and why they shot him no one seems to know.

Tar and Feather Parties.

"The city marshal of a neighboring town, a well known doctor, and other citizens were beaten and treated to a coat of tar and feathers. What offenses they had committed and what trial they had been accorded was never known.

An attorney of one of your neighboring towns and an ex-soldier for

his country overseas was taken from me as an abstract proposition, then his office in the day time, be it not behooves somebody in the Somers and treated to a coat of tar and feather-ville community to put two and twoers, and no one has answered to the together and name the guilty man law for the offense.

"On the other side, in the neighbor-murderers had any connection with borhood of Sealy, a prominent phy-the klan, but I do say the best way sician admitted on the witness stand to determine is to find the guilty

too without cause, had been taken out and severely beaten and flogged. Who did it, he does not know, and the law does not know. Acting Governor Davidson concluded his address with:

"It is reported that even an old decrepit Baptist preacher was not spared the lash.

"It is asserted that masked men have captured the ballot box.

"It is said that an overseas veteran, who fought for his country, while perhaps his assailants were staying at home, was taken out and severely whipped. These are just election of the murderers of Otto Lange, and I declare to you that if it rests within my power these masked murderers and tar and feather parties will cease in Texas."

Acting Governor Davidson left Somerville at 4 p. m. for Houston, whence he will depart at 11 p. m. for Austin.

The barbecue and jubilee of Co. 4 was one of the biggest in Burleson county

some power more potent, of greater strength in your community; than the law of the land. What it is and who are its directors and leaders I am not prepared to say, but I do say that they have disregarded the dignity of the law and have outraged society.

A reply to Citizens

The following is a list of the names of the men who were present at the meeting in the First Baptist Church, on Saturday evening, April 11, 1914, to consider the formation of a Citizens' Committee to protest against the action of the Legislature in enacting the laws which have been passed in the last session.

**Johnston**. Accompanying Captain  
Pson were Captain S. C. Sauter

"If you care nothing for the life and Lieutenant M. E. Walter, also  
of Otto Lange, if you care nothing former officers of the company.  
for men's lives, then certainly you Company H at present is command-  
should feel some concern for the ed by Captain G. A. White, First Lieu-  
preservation of your community. You tenant E. W. Stork and Second Lieu-  
must know the treatment of this tenant A. T. Autrev.  
character will in time provoke the  
reprisal and retaliation.

"I want to compliment the law abiding citizens of this country that they have discouraged this, but it would seem that the law has been slow in coming to the protection of those who have been maltreated, shot and even killed.

*The Houston, Tex.*

"While I do not charge or name any organization with the commission of these crimes, it must be apparent to other men that there is some connection and some understanding between this continuous treatment of your citizens and this continuous failure of the law to function.

"It would appear that the very arms of justice have been paralyzed and that the officers have lost their cunning. It was said to me by one of the best known peace officers of Texas that he was friendly to the klan organization, but it is up to them to aid the law in bringing to justice the perpetrator of this murder following on the heels, as it were, of these other crimes and offenses, or they will stand in the shadow of public opinion for their failure to do so.

water.

The negro confessed, according to officers.

The negro offered no resistance when discovered walking along a road by Sheriff Jack Yarbrough and Deputy James Butler of Nolan county. He carried a bloodstained pistol.

Smith was lodged in the Nolan county jail and Runnels county authorities notified. Feeling is reported high in Runnels county.

## ~~MAN'S BODY FOUND~~

**Refers to Klan.**

"A gentleman in another county who, by the way, is an ardent member of the klan, told me that he had been furnished with a list of names of those who should be whipped, and it was as long as his arm. Fortunately, this gentleman was one of such discretion and judgment that he did not undertake to whip everybody upon somebody's request. He told me the organization was one of the greatest assets in the country and that the composite knowledge of the entire membership was brought together, and nothing could escape their combined knowledge.

J. H. Martin Dead After Pitched Gun Battle.  
SWEETWATER, TEXAS, Sept. 23.  
—The body of J. H. Martin was found in a draw north of Sweetwater late today following a pitched gun battle with officers and citizens which continued practically all day. Martin was sought by officers after finding the body of Mrs. Lelah Beall, near Clyde, Saturday night.

J. H. Martin  
dead

"If the statement of this man is &

Killings - 1923.

Virginia.

## MAN AND WIFE JAILED AFTER A MOB ATTACK

Louisa, Va., April 79.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is investigating the case of James Gordon and his wife, Mattie Gordon, of Louisa, Virginia, who were jailed it is charged, after a mob attack in which a white man was killed.

The trouble which occurred in February, is said to have arisen over a piece of land claimed by both Mr. Gordon and the white man, whose location had been settled some months before by a local court. The white man is said to have persisted in moving the line fence on Gordon's land, and finally in a dispute which arose one of the white man's employees was shot and killed.

A letter from Mrs. Gordon states that the white man and his forces had threatened to kill her and her husband. The trial is scheduled to take place at the Louisa, Virginia, Court House between the 14th and the 21st of May.

## Mob of Colored Men Threaten Foreman

Richmond, Va., Aug. 25.—Quiet prevailed at the Hermitage plant of Kingan & Co., where a riot was threatened earlier in the day, on Friday, as the result of the killing Thursday night of John Harris, laborer, and the alleged attempt to assassinate W. G. Satterwhite, a foreman of the plant.

The squad of police officers and detectives rushed to the scene when Negroes were reported gathering in the vicinity of the plant and threatening violence, was withdrawn and a single officer was left in charge. The excitement had abated, and the presence of the officers was no longer necessary.

Twenty-five Negro employees of the company have quit their jobs as a result of the killing of Harris.

Harris was killed by N. B. Goodman, a foreman at the Kingan plant, it is alleged, when the latter discovered him emerging from the bacon department at night. A short time after the Negro was killed, W. G. Satterwhite, another foreman, was fired upon from ambush, the bullet piercing his coat. Harris is said to have been under suspicion for some time.

Goodwin is under \$10,000 bond on a charge of first degree murder. He was arraigned in police court but the preliminary hearing was continued to September 5. A coroner's jury which investigated the killing reported that

Harris' death was due to gunshot wounds inflicted by Goodwin.

Killings—1923.

Wisconsin.

All-Day Man Hunt  
Fails to Disclose  
Alleged Slayer

Mulatto Wanted for Murder  
of Policeman Still at  
Large.

Madison, Wis., May 24.—After an all-day man hunt by authorities throughout Wisconsin, the police here believed Wednesday night that John E. Whitfield, mulatto, wanted for the murder of a Cleveland policeman, had made good his escape from the state. *5-25-25* ✓ w

Whitfield, following a hair-breadth escape here during the night, is believed to have fled in a stolen automobile. Police officers believe he may have raced to Chicago to hide himself somewhere in the big Chicago "black belt," and the police of that city have been asked to keep a sharp lookout for the fugitive.

Not a single clue was brought in by the state-wide dragnet which was spread out following Whitfield's latest escape.

The police have been promised aid in their search, however, by 21-year-old Marie Price, the mulatto's white sweetheart who came here with him, and the expectant mother of his child.

"If he is a negro and a murderer, as they say," she told them Wednesday afternoon, "I will help you catch him."

Sooner or later, the authorities believe, Whitfield will be lured back to Marie Price and her baby.

It developed that Whitfield and the girl had spent the past four days leisurely touring southern Wisconsin, selling spark plugs the while. An account book found in the car confiscated by the police showed that Whitfield sold \$46 worth of spark plugs in Racine May 19, \$56 worth in Burlington, Wis., Monday and Tuesday, and \$55 worth in Edgerton on Wednesday.

Marie declares they were to have been married here Thursday.